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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
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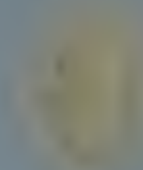
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The Grand International
PROGRAM

June 17, 1911

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THE ORONO SESQUICENTENNIAL P R O G R A M

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of Orono

JUNE 14 - 15 - 16

1806 - 1956

Thursday, June 14

- 5:45 P.M.—Sesquicentennial Banquet (High School Gymnasium)
- 8:15 P.M.—Historical Pageant, *THIS IS YOUR TOWN*, a dramatic portrayal of the history of Orono, written, directed, and produced by Herschel Bricker (University Memorial Gymnasium)

Friday, June 15

- 9:00 A.M. to Noon—Orono Reunion (Community House)
- 9:00 A.M. to Noon—"Orono in Pictures" and historical displays (Community House)
- 9:00 A.M. to Noon—"Let's Talk About Orono's History," with Barbara Dunn Hitchner (Community House)
- 9:00 A.M. to Noon—Tours of Orono—bus tours of Orono with narrators describing historical points of interest (Buses will leave from Town Hall)
- 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.—Open Houses and Gardens (for details, see note at end of program)
- 1:00 P.M.—Children's Program (High School Athletic Field)
- 2:30 P.M.—Laying of the Cornerstone of the New Elementary School
- 3:00 P.M.—Sesquicentennial Musical Program, presenting several of Orono's musical artists (Town Hall)
- 8:15 P.M.—Pageant, *THIS IS YOUR TOWN* (University Memorial Gymnasium)
- 9:00 P.M.-11:45 P.M.—Dance (High School)

Saturday, June 16

- 9:00 A.M. to Noon—Same program as Friday, June 15
1:00 P.M.—Indian Ceremonies (Webster Park)
2:00 P.M.—Sesquicentennial Parade
3:30-5:30 P.M. * Concert by Orono High School Band
(High School Grounds)
* Outdoor Woodsmen Exhibition — log
rolling, wood cutting, canoe tilting
(Nickerson Pool)
* Fire Department Exhibition and Games
(High School Athletic Field)
5:30-8:00 P.M.—Log Drivers' Supper (High School Athletic
Field)
6:00 P.M. * Beard Growing Contest—judging and award-
ing of prizes (at Log Drivers'
Supper)
* Reunion of Orono's undefeated and untied
High School Football Team of 1932
8:15 P.M.—Pageant, *THIS IS YOUR TOWN* (University
Memorial Gymnasium)

SPECIAL EVENTS

STORE WINDOW DISPLAYS — The windows of Orono's stores
will be decorated with things from the past.

COLORED SLIDES OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS
— Each of the major events of the Sesquicentennial, as well as
scenes from the pageant, will be recorded on colored film,
and slides will be made available to those who want to buy
them.

NAMESAKE TOWNS — Messages from Orono, Minnesota,
Orono, Michigan, and Orono, Ontario, will be read at the
Sesquicentennial Banquet.

INDIAN AND SESQUICENTENNIAL SOUVENIRS — Products
of the Penobscot Indians and ceramic tiles by Mrs. Milton
McGorrill will be on sale during the celebration.

OPEN HOUSES AND GARDENS

Several of Orono's historical homes and outstanding gardens will be open to the public during the Orono Sesquicentennial. Admission to these homes and gardens will be by program-ticket only. These programs can be obtained at the LaBeau TV Center in Orono from June 4 on, or at the American Legion corner and at the Community House on Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16.

The following homes will be open:

The Wilfrid J. Comeau Home—115 Main Street
The Gould-Buffum Home—149 Main Street
The Norman R. Ness Home—91 Bennoch Road
The William J. Sweetser Home—109 Main Street
The Roy V. Weldon Home—120 Main Street
The Bride's House (Modern)—Fernwood Avenue

The gardens of the following residences will be open:

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Corbett—21 College Heights
Mr. and Mrs. E. Reeve Hitchner—51 Bennoch Road
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ibbotson—10 University Place
Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Kirshen—14 University Place
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis H. Niven—6 University Place
Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Nutting—17 College Heights
Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Speicher—12 University Place
Mrs. Marian Sweetman—16 University Place

ORONO'S OLDEST RESIDENTS

The citizens of Orono listed below will be honored at the Sesquicentennial Banquet. All of them were born in Orono and are living in Orono now. Each is more than eighty years old.

Ella Dall
Anna I. Doyle
Isabel R. Dunn
Victoria Dwyer
Belle A. Hall

Louis H. King
William H. King
Ellen M. Kirk
Charles Perry
Ethel P. Weeks

THE ORONO SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Barbara Dunn Hitchner	}	Co-Chairmen
Gerald J. Grady		
Vina Adams		
Roswell P. Bates		
Charles E. Crossland		
Albert K. Gardner		
Abe Goldsmith		
George Gonyer		
Kenneth V. Goodman		
Frank B. Harlow		
Joseph R. LaBeau		
Melva Littlefield		
Lutie Longfellow		
Mildred "Brownie" Schrumpf		
Robert P. Shay		

WITH SINCERE THANKS

The Orono Sesquicentennial program has been made possible by the cooperation and assistance of hundreds of Orono residents. Their participation has been with the finest of community spirit and civic pride. The Sesquicentennial committee wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to each and every person who helped to make the program a success. Public recognition of each would be difficult, but the committee wishes to give special thanks to those listed below who made major contributions. In several cases an entire event has been sponsored by an Orono organization. It is the hope of the committee that this splendid community endeavor is in itself a partial reward for their contribution.

Banquet — Mildred "Brownie" Schrumpf and Charles Crossland
Parade — Orono American Legion

Log Drivers' Picnic — Orono-Old Town Kiwanis

Children's Program — Orono Junior Chamber of Commerce

Open Houses and Gardens — W.S.C.S. of the Methodist Church

Tours of Orono — High School Debating Team
Musical Program — Mrs. Irwin Douglas, Mrs. John Klein, Mrs.
Jonathan Biscoe
Store Window Displays — Orono Daughters of the American
Revolution
Beard Growing Contest — Kenneth V. Goodman
Colored Slides of Sesquicentennial — Kenneth Miles
Historical Exhibits — Joseph Plamondon
Tickets — Frank Harlow, Melva Littlefield
Publicity — Howard Keyo, Mrs. Carl Flynn, George Gonyer, Ed-
ward Guernsey, Charles Perry, Mrs. Seymour Ryckman,
Walter Schurman
Traffic Control — Orono Regular and Auxiliary Police
Fire Equipment Display — Orono Fire Department
Medical Attention — Joseph LaBeau
Map of Orono — Orono League of Women Voters
Orono Reunion — Coffee by Orono Woman's Club
Brochure Advertising — John Luebbers, Claude Chittick, Herbert
Spencer, Frederick Burpee, Edward Ross, Roger Sabin
Pageant Artists — Philip Brockway, Mrs. Howard Nichols, Mrs.
Ashley Campbell, Miss Frances Clapp, Mrs. Dorothy Queen,
Mrs. Christine Abbott, Fred E. Round
Those Who Opened Their Homes and Gardens
The Coordinators from Each Orono Organization



*"Monument Square" with Civil War veterans on parade.
About 1900.*



"Monument Square" today.

Historical Sketch of the Town Of Orono

By Clarence A. Day

CHAPTER I

Pioneer Days

Maine abounds in Indian place names from Monhegan to Madawaska and from the Piscataqua to Passamaquoddy. There are Indian names for lakes, rivers, mountains, and towns; but only one town preserves in its name the memory of an Indian himself. That town is Orono, named for Joseph Orono who was a famous chief of the Penobscot tribe in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

Chief Orono had lived within the original limits of the present town of Orono for many years before the coming of the first white pioneers, and was only recently dead when the town was incorporated and named for him. The white inhabitants knew him well; and by his ability, fairness, and kindly conduct he had earned their affection and respect.

Orono was an outspoken advocate of peace between the two races. A talk that he once made, as reported by Judge William D. Williamson, reveals his thinking in this regard. "To kill will not bring the dead to life. The crime of a few never sprinkles blood on all. Strike the murderers. Let the rest be quiet. Peace is the voice of the Great Spirit. Everyone is blessed under its wings. Everything withers in war. Indians are killed. Squaws starve. Nothing is gained, not plunder, not glory. Englishmen are now too many. Let the hatchet be buried. Smoke the calumet once more. Strive for peace. Exact a recompense by treaty for the wrongs done us. None! Ay: Then fight 'em."

During the war of the Revolution, Orono was firmly at-

tached to the American cause and held his tribesmen on the side of the colonies. To him and to Colonel John Allan, of Machias, superintendent of the Eastern Indians, more than to any other two men, belongs the credit for keeping the Indians loyal and for saving Eastern Maine to the United States.

Joseph Orono was not a full-blooded Indian. He had blue eyes, a fair complexion, and hair of an auburn tinge that in his old age became perfectly white. The early settlers believed that he had been captured by the Indians as a child and adopted into the tribe. Orono himself once said that his father was French and his mother half French and half Indian, but did not name his parents. General Henry Knox, who knew him well, wrote that the chief was "half Indian and half French of the Castine breed." Williamson said that he was "a reputed descendant of Baron de Castine by an Indian wife." He also declared that Orono was honest, temperate, and industrious, and remarkable for his forethought and wisdom. Joseph Orono died in 1801 at the reputed age of one hundred and thirteen years.

Orono had been settled for thirty-two years before it became a town. The first settlement was made in what is now Orono village by Joshua Eayres (or Ayers) and Jeremiah Colburn. Both brought their families and Colburn built his log cabin near what is now Mill Street while Eayres located on or near what is now Myrtle Street. Together they built the same year "half a mill" near the mouth of the Stillwater, which was later finished by themselves and others. Esther, daughter of Joshua Eayres, was the first white child born in Orono. She married William McPheters and was a lifelong resident of the town. The local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is named in her honor.

The next settler was John Marsh, the "Interpreter." He first came with Colburn and Eayres in 1774, went on to Canada, and served as "linguister" with Arnold's army before Quebec. Later he married Colburn's daughter Sarah and cleared a farm near the present location of the northern end of the highway bridge across the Stillwater. Descendants of these original families are still living in Orono although they do not bear the original names.

John Marsh was intimate with the Indians and often served

as their interpreter when they had business with white officials. He secured from them a grant of the island on which he lived and which has since been called Marsh Island. This large island lies between the Stillwater and the Penobscot Rivers. The Stillwater is really a part of the Penobscot. It leaves the main river a short distance above Old Town and joins it again at Orono. Marsh Island contains about five thousand acres, and on it are located that part of Orono known as Webster, the University of Maine, the University forest, part of Stillwater village and the city of Old Town proper.

Among the pioneers in Orono in or before 1800 besides those already named were Abram Tourtelotte, 1781; Samuel White, 1784; Daniel Jameson, about 1785; Robert, John, Joshua, and Joseph Treat; Joseph Page, Antoine Lachance, and Abram Freese; David Read, Joseph Inman, and Andrew Webster; Francis Wyman, Archibald McPheters, and William Duggans; and Ard Godfrey and George Ring. As late as 1800 there were but seventy-seven inhabitants.

Several place names were used in the area before it was called Orono. For a long time the Penobscot Indians had a camping ground, or perhaps a small village, at that part of the present village bounded by the Stillwater, the Penobscot, and the upper waters of the Basin. Many stone and other relics were found there by the early settlers. The Indian name for this camping ground is unknown, but Ayers Rips nearby was called Arum-sunkhungan, or more accurately, according to Mrs. Fannie Hardy Eckstorm, our best authority on Indian names, "Nalum-sunkhungan, alewife fishing place below the outlet" of the Stillwater. The name, by extension, came to be applied to the surrounding area including Marsh Island. The Indians called John Marsh's farm on the island near the bridge Pem-skud-ck, "the extensive burned place," or clearing, or farm.

The Stillwater River they called Skit-i-kuk, which was their usual term for deadwater on a stream. The English seem to have first called the river, Deadwater. Owen Madden, a school-master in Orono and Bangor in the pioneer days, is credited with having changed the name to Stillwater because he thought the word had a more agreeable sound. Orono village was once called

Stillwater, and later Lower Stillwater, to distinguish it from the present village of Stillwater, then called Upper Stillwater.

As to the earlier names for the town itself, Mrs. Hannah W. Rogers tells us that the area included in both Orono and Old Town of the present day was organized in 1790 as a plantation and named Cobentown after the Colburn family, and that in 1800 the name of the plantation was changed to Stillwater.

March 12, 1806, the General Court of Massachusetts passed "An Act to incorporate the Plantation heretofore called Stillwater, in the County of Hancock, into a Town by the name of Orono." Williamson wrote in his *History of Maine*: "It is the 162d town in the State of Maine; taking its name from a distinguished chief of the Tarratine (Penobscot) tribe, whose friendship to the cause of American liberties gave him an elevated place in the public estimation." The town when incorporated included all of the present town of Orono and also all of the present city of Old Town except about two thousand acres along its northern border. Indian Island, the principal village of the Penobscots, was within the limits of the new town, although the town had no jurisdiction over it. The population at the time of incorporation was small but growing. The United States Census gives 77 persons in 1800 and 351 in 1810.

The first town meeting after incorporation was held at the home of Captain David Read in Stillwater (Orono), April 7, 1806. Officers elected were Aaron Bliss, town clerk; Richard Winslow, Moses Averill, and John Read, selectmen; Andrew Webster, treasurer; and Ard Godfrey, collector and constable. The voters raised \$75 for town charges and \$1,000 for roads to be paid in work, but nothing for schools. The town also voted to build three pounds for stray animals and to fence the cemetery. "Having made these provisions to prevent the straying of cattle and the dead," remarked Governor Washburn, "they seemed to have thought it reasonable to let the children run at large."

The next year, 1807, the town voted \$200 for contingent expenses, \$200 for schools, \$50 for a minister, and \$1,000 in labor for roads. Thereafter money was voted each year for schools, although usually much less than for roads up to the time of the division of the town in 1840. This however seems to have been

the only time that money was voted for the support of the ministry.

Orono grew very slowly before 1820. The population that year was 415, only 64 more than it had been in 1810. Inducements for growth were small. The lumber business was still in its infancy, agriculture was still of the homemaker type, and the tide of immigration was slow in ascending the Penobscot Valley.

Events connected with the War of 1812 with the British also retarded the growth of the river towns. The coasting trade was destroyed by the British naval vessels and the lumbermen were deprived of their markets. Depredations along the coast kept the people fearful and disturbed. Then in 1814 came the series of events that culminated in the Battle of Hampden and the capture of Bangor by the enemy.

September 1, 1814, a British fleet took possession of the American garrison at Castine without meeting with the least resistance. Part of the fleet then proceeded up the Penobscot to Marsh Bay, where they landed several hundred troops and then advanced up the river. General John Blake, of Brewer, hastily ordered the militia from the neighboring towns to assemble at Hampden to repel the expected attack. Among the companies that responded was one from Orono with Captain Ebenezer Webster in command.

The Battle of Hampden was brief and inglorious. The raw militia fired and fled almost at the first onslaught of the trained English soldiers. Bangor was captured and nearly two hundred of her citizens were taken prisoners and placed on parole. Stores and dwelling houses were plundered and public buildings were taken over by the enemy. The British seized the shipping in the river and threatened to burn several vessels still on the stocks in the shipyards. Finally the selectmen of Bangor gave a bond for \$30,000 to prevent the burning of these vessels as they believed that such a fire would surely spread and consume the whole town. Thereupon the British commanders gave written assurance that no more private property in Bangor or Orono would be disturbed except that on the river. The next day they burned part of the ships that were afloat and departed, taking the remainder down river with them and leaving destruction and desolation behind.

Excitement in Orono was intense and a town meeting was held to see what should be done. The democratic process had full sway as shown by the following vote: "That we choose a committee to make enquiry and find out the intentions of the British towards the inhabitants of this town, and if it appears to them that they intend to invade this town, to report the same to the inhabitants, and also to have authority to call the inhabitants together at the shortest possible notice, to determine what method shall be taken for the preservation of the persons and property of said town." Ebenezer Webster, William Colburn, Jr., and Samuel White were chosen as the committee to carry out the provisions of the vote. There is no record that they ever made a report, probably because they soon learned of the agreement already made at Bangor.

"During all of this period," (before 1815) said Governor Washburn at the centennial celebration in 1874, "the Stillwater River was crossed by a ferry, and it was not until several years later that a bridge was built over it. The schools were of the most primitive kind, and religious services were held in school rooms and dwelling houses — chiefly by the Methodists. There was neither lawyer nor doctor living in the town at this time. The first school house was built in 1815, and was near where the late Samuel White lived on Pleasant Street. It was afterward burned." The first tavern in town was opened by Perez Graves in 1812.

This period in the history of Orono may be summarized somewhat as follows. The first settlement was made in 1774 but the community grew very slowly for the first quarter century. For the next twenty years growth was still slow but somewhat more rapid than heretofore. However, throughout the whole time until 1820 when Maine became a state, the plantation and town had neither doctor, lawyer, nor settled minister. There were no churches or church buildings. Roads were little better than trails and most dwellings were of the humbler sort. There were a few small sawmills but no industry other than lumbering. On the brighter side, the town was gradually acquiring enterprising citizens, rapid development of the lumber industry was just ahead in the future, and the town was about to enter upon an era of substantial growth.

CHAPTER II

Rapid Growth And The Great Land Speculation

Orono grew rapidly between 1820 and 1830, and in the middle thirties it experienced the largest increase in population in a short time in all its history. During the score of years between 1820 and 1840 Orono acquired doctors, lawyers, ministers, and merchants; school houses and churches; grist, carding, and fulling mills; bridges, a railroad, a canal, and a bank; numerous saw-mills, a cantdog factory, and an iron factory; a village corporation and a poorhouse. Orono also passed through that fantastic period of boom and bust known in Maine as the Great Land Speculation.

The first physician in Orono, perhaps, was Dr. Daniel J. Perley, who afterward practiced in Bangor. The next was Dr. Stevens who came from China before 1826 but who soon died of consumption. Dr. Varney Putnam was here for a short time before 1830. During the thirties at least six doctors practiced here for longer or shorter periods. They were Daniel McRuer, who came about 1830, Elihu Baxter, John Ricker, R. W. Wood, William H. Allen, and Sumner Laughton. None appears to have remained long.

The first lawyers in Orono were Jeremiah Perley, author of *The Maine Justice*, and Jonas Cutting. The latter came in 1826. Later he moved to Bangor and still later he served as a justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of the State of Maine, 1854-1875. A little later came Frederick A. Fuller, Thomas J. Goodwin, and John H. Hilliard. Fuller remained until 1844. His son, Melville Weston Fuller, who spent his early boyhood in Orono, served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1888 to 1910.

During the boom years of the middle thirties several lawyers located here, including Henry E. Prentiss, later mayor of Bangor, Aaron Woodman, Samuel Belcher, Nathan Weston, Thomas J.

Copeland, Nathaniel Wilson, and Israel Washburn, Jr. Mr. Wilson remained in Orono until his death in 1892. He was one of the early trustees of the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, now the University of Maine.

Israel Washburn, Jr., was Orono's most distinguished citizen during the nineteenth century. Born in 1813, he studied law with his uncle, Ruel Washburn, and was admitted to the bar in 1834. He came to Orono the same year. Seven years later he married Mary Maud Webster, daughter of Colonel Ebenezer Webster, and thus became connected with one of the oldest and most influential families in the town. He took an active part in town affairs and was one of the founders and a leading member of the Universalist Church.

Israel Washburn was elected to Congress as a member of the House of Representatives in 1850 as a Whig, but later became one of the Republican leaders in that body. At one time three brothers in the Washburn family were representatives in Congress — Israel from Maine, Elihu from Illinois, and Cadwallader from Wisconsin.

Washburn resigned his seat in the House of Representatives in 1861 to become Governor of Maine during the first two years of the Civil War. He served two terms, 1861-1863, but refused a third term. In 1863 President Lincoln appointed him Collector of Customs for the Port of Portland, and he soon removed from Orono to that city where he lived for the remainder of his life. He died in 1883. Readers of this sketch are indebted to Governor Washburn because much of the information it contains about the early history of the town is taken from his "Historical Address" delivered at the dedication of the then new town hall on the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the town.

The history of the Orono churches will be found in another chapter. Sufficient to say here that both the Congregationalists and the Methodists organized church societies and built houses of worship during the period under discussion. To quote from Governor Washburn: "The Methodist church, raised August 22, 1833, was built by David Balkham, and was dedicated in June 1834. The Congregationalist church — Hugh Read and Israel

Brown builders — was erected in 1833 and dedicated in the spring of 1834.” Two new schoolhouses were built about the same time, one of brick on Marsh Island and one of wood on Bennoch Street and later moved to Main Street near the location of the present Church of Universal Fellowship.

The first bridge over the Stillwater was a toll bridge built in 1826 by John Bennoch, of Orono, and Thomas A. Hill and Mark Trafton, of Bangor. It was swept away by ice in a spring freshet, April 1, 1831, but was replaced by a new bridge the same year. The town of Orono bought this bridge and made it a free bridge in 1889. In 1912 it was replaced by an iron bridge which was succeeded by the present bridge a few years ago. During the depression that followed the land speculation bubble: “While the people had little to do, Asa W. Babcock, Esq., and Captain Samuel Moore worked up a movement for a free bridge, and pushed it with such earnestness and enthusiasm that the bridge was erected and made ready for travel in a few months.” This bridge across the Stillwater was located near the site of the present railroad bridge and was a great convenience to the people in that part of the town until it fell some years afterward.

“The second railroad to be operated in New England,” says Edward E. Chase in his *Maine Railroads*, “was the Bangor and Piscataquis Canal and Railroad, opened between Bangor and Old Town in 1836.” The Bangor and Old Town Railroad, chartered in 1832, had built bridges and graded a portion of the right of way, but had stopped construction because of a defect in the charter. The rival company then bought the franchise and built the road on another location. The railroad ran from Bangor through Upper Stillwater to Old Town and was used principally to convey manufactured lumber from the mills to the wharves in Bangor for ocean shipment. General Samuel Veazie, one of the biggest lumbermen on the river, bought the road in 1854 and operated it until his death in 1868. Two years later the Veazie heirs sold it to the European and North American Railroad and it was discontinued. It ran the whole width of the present town of Orono.

More beneficial to Lower Stillwater, now Orono village, was the Stillwater canal. The Stillwater Canal Company was char-



Old Covered Bridge over the Stillwater. Built about 1831.



Iron Bridge over the Stillwater. Built in 1912.



Present day bridge over the Stillwater. Built in 1950.



Electric Trolley on Main Street, about 1905.

tered July 6, 1828. "It was intended for the passage of rafts," said Washburn, "from Upper Stillwater and above, to the Penobscot River below Ayres' Falls. It was not opened for the whole distance until 1835, though part of it had been previously used. Ludo Thayer, of Portland, was one of the contractors, and moved to this town about 1832." Remains of the ancient canal may still be seen here and there along its course.

The lumber business developed rapidly during this period and will be considered in another chapter. Other types of business came to Orono during the middle and late thirties. One was the Stillwater iron foundry which was built about 1836 and did business for a few years. The company finally failed because of the bankruptcy of some of the concerns with which it was doing business.

Another shortlived venture was the Stillwater Canal Bank, incorporated March 31, 1835. The first president, Albert G. Brown, was succeeded by Nathaniel Treat. Elvaton P. Butler was the cashier. The bank did little business after 1837 and was liquidated a few years later after a fitful financial career.

A more permanent investment between 1830 and 1840 was the cantdog factory built by John Bennoch, one of the leading businessmen of his day. Later the property came into the hands of the Edward Mansfields, father and son. They did a thriving business for many years in the manufacture of river-driving equipment such as cantdogs, poles, and oars, which had wide distribution.

During the decade Lower Stillwater was becoming village conscious and eventually wanted services that the voters in the other sections of the town were not willing to grant at town meeting. To meet the situation a village corporation was formed under the terms of an Act of the Maine Legislature approved February 16, 1837. The act enabled the corporation to assess and collect taxes for fire protection only. The corporation functioned until the division of the town in 1840 when it was allowed to lapse. Thereafter a great majority of the voters lived in the village and could provide this service through the town organization.

These new developments were results of the remarkable expansion that took place between 1832 and 1837 in connection

with the Great Land Speculation and a corresponding increase in population. Said Governor Washburn: "The growth of Orono at the time was fabulous. The population, which, in 1830, was less than 1,500, rose, according to a census taken by the selectmen in the spring of 1836, to about 6,000, of whom nearly 1,900 were in this (Orono) village." Even when the bubble had burst and large numbers of people had moved away, there were more people in the smaller Orono after the division of the town in 1840 than there had been in the larger Orono ten years earlier.

Speculation in wild lands began in this area about 1832, reached its height in 1835 or 1836, and collapsed a year or so later. Land priced before the boom at 25 or 50 cents an acre sold later at ten times that amount. Fortunes were quickly made and as quickly lost. Millions of acres changed hands, some tracts several times. Colonel John Black, of Ellsworth, general agent for the Bingham estate, reported in 1835 that he had sold 275,000 acres of land in a single winter, "some townships at \$3 per acre." Speculation was not confined to land alone. A speculator would bargain for a township, make a small down payment, get a bond for a deed, and then proceed to sell bonds. City and town lots were also bonded and sold in this manner. Wrote Hugh McCulloch, a Maine native who was Secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln and Johnson: "Buyers in the morning were sellers in the afternoon. The same lands were sold over and over again, until lands that had sold originally for a few cents an acre, were sold for half as many dollars." Naturally the latest buyer was caught "holding the bag."

The speculation had its amusing as well as its serious side, as was witnessed by the numerous stories afloat at the time. One concerns a Bangor deacon whose pastor expostulated with him for dealing in that kind of mammon. Evidently the deacon was seeing the seamy side of the garment just then, for he replied almost in the words of St. Paul to King Agrippa: "I would that thou wert altogether such as I am, except for these bonds." One of the tall stories relates that two inmates escaped from the Bangor almshouse one evening and before they were rounded up the next morning had made \$1,800 each by dealing in bonds!

Orono was right in the midst of the speculative boom and

had visions of a grand and glowing future. But let Governor Washburn, who lived here then, tell the tale.

"Bonds, conditioned for the conveyance of timber lands, of lots in Bangor, and in the villages in Orono, were in great demand, for which liberal, and sometimes very large, bonuses were paid. Retired capitalists, merchants, manufacturers, old sea captains, and others, from abroad, had heard of the vast wealth of the Penobscot forests, of the countless millions of timber they contained, and of its marvelous quality. To own the bond of a township was to have an independent fortune, but to possess the title was 'wealth beyond the dreams of avarice.'

"This village, of course, had its bond brokers, but they flourished better in Old Town. The fortunes secured daily by transactions of this kind in that enterprising village passed any marvels that we read of in the Arabian Nights Entertainments. About that time wolf skins for sleigh robes came into fashion in this vicinity, and a man's fortune, or the number of bonds he held, was ordinarily gauged by the number and length of the wolves' tails that hung over the back of his sleigh. Stillwater, as this village was then called, did well in this line, Bangor better, but Old Town beat the world.

"Of course, when the woods above contained such vast and exhaustless wealth, the points below, where the lumber would be manufactured and shipped, assumed great importance. Lots in this village rose to city prices, and the man who did not own land or had not given a bond of village property was of very little account.

"Robert M. N. Smyth, otherwise called 'The Roarer,' a noted speculator, had formed a joint stock company, with Massachusetts capitalists as trustees and stockholders, and purchased Eayres' Island and several hundred acres of land, embracing, with the exception of a few lots, all the territory east of Main street, from Pine street to the farm of Stephen Page, as well as the Union Mills and the power at Eayres' Falls.

"The company, which was styled The Bangor Lower Stillwater Mill Company, surveyed this large tract and laid it out into city plots — house lots, store lots, factory lots, water lots, etc.; and having reserved the best for itself, offered the rest at a pub-

lic auction, held under an immense tent on Broadway, in June 1836. The sale was advertised in New York, Boston, Providence, Portland, and Bangor, and many people from far and near came to attend it. It was a beautiful day, and while the auctioneer was knocking down lots (50 by 100 feet) in Mr. Colburn's field, at from \$500 to \$1,000 each, the caterer, imported from New York, was still more busy in passing out crackers, cheese, and other appetizing edibles, to the attendant multitude, and pouring champagne from the original bottles into huge wash tubs, from which each man helped himself at his own sweet will. These were flush days in Orono."

John E. Godfrey, the historian of Bangor, adds: "Before the public sale the Stillwater Company disposed of permits to lumber at the average rate of \$4.50 per thousand, amounting to \$140,000; sales of factory sites and house lots, \$60,000. Sales by auction by Head and Pillsbury: permits, \$127,000; factory sites, house lots, etc., \$75,942; total \$402,942. The sales exceeded all anticipations." Truly a round sum for those days.

Mr. Washburn now tells the sequel. "In the fall of 1837 there were changes in the Bangor Lower Stillwater Mill Company, and its property passed into the hands of a new company formed in New York, called the North American Lumber Company, of which the eminent judge, Thomas J. Oakley, and the Hon. Stephen A. Halsey were trustees. . . . But the fates were against the company, the times were hard, money scarce, and lumber dull of sale — and no trustees, however honorable, or agents, however able, could avert the inevitable doom.

"After the revolution and collapse of 1836-7, the population began to shrink, stores were wound up, goods attached and sold at auction, and a general prostration of business supervened. The lumber trade left those who were bold enough to engage in it to estimate their losses, rather than count their gains. In 1837 a 'drive' of as fine logs as ever floated from the Baskahegan brought to the operators less than enough to pay the bills for manufacturing and running from the mills to Bangor. Money, during part of the time between 1837 and 1840, was scarcer than it had ever been before or has been since; and to add to the inconvenience, and even suffering, experienced by the people, pro-

visions, and especially bread-stuffs, were scarce, and ruled at prices dear beyond precedent. Indignation meetings, to protest against the high price of flour, were held at Bangor. I cannot, even at this distance, look back upon these cruel years without extreme pain." It may be well to add that not all the misery and distress was caused by the collapse of the Great Land Speculation. The whole country was then in the throes of the business depression that characterized the Van Buren Administration.

As the villages of Lower Stillwater and Old Town grew, rivalries and jealousies developed between them. These differences were most apparent at town meeting and for some years there had been movement to divide the town. Finally in 1840 Old Town was set off and incorporated as a separate town under that name while Lower Stillwater retained the name of Orono. The new town had more than half the population — Orono, 1,521; Old Town, 2,345 — and received more than two thirds of the territory. Thus Orono became one of the smallest towns in Maine as far as area was concerned. Under the terms of separation Old Town assumed \$6,600 as its share of the indebtedness of the town. Already economic conditions were showing signs of improvement and people were beginning to look forward toward better times.



Residence of Nathaniel Wilson, Attorney and Superintendent of Schools, on Pine Street. About 1850.

CHAPTER III

Growth Of The Lumber Business

Lumber has been the basis of Orono's business economy until recent years. For more than a century the Orono mills were busy sawing the pine and spruce that came down from up river into merchantable lumber of all kinds, but principally long lumber, shingles, clapboards, and laths. Then the pulp and paper mills were built around 1890 and sawmills gradually went out of business. Now the paper mills have ceased operation and the buildings have been turned to other uses.

The first sawmill, that started by Colburn and Eayres in 1774, stood on the southern bank of the Stillwater on what was known, a little later at least, as Narumsunkhungan Falls. This probably had one crude, old-fashioned, "up-and-down" saw. It may have burned, since Captain David Read, who came to Orono in 1793, built a mill on the same site. In 1796 he also built a sawmill, later known as the stone mill, on the Marsh Island side of the falls. If the Colburn mill was burned, it was the first of a long list of mills in Orono that were destroyed by fire or freshet.

Other mills were built, most of them after 1830, on two large dams across the Stillwater. The Lower Dam, so called, extended from Marsh Island Point to the south bank of the river. The upper dam, just above, was really two dams. The first one built reached from Marsh Island to a very small island in the river and was commonly called at one time the Treat and Webster dam and later the Babcock dam. The second extended from the island to the southern bank and was known as the Bennoch dam. At one period there were at least twelve mills on the Babcock dam. Among the many owners before the Civil War were Joseph and Nathaniel Treat, Ebenezer Webster, Daniel White, Benjamin Brown, Asa W. Babcock, Samuel Veazie, and Benjamin P. Gilman. Among those interested in the mills on the Bennoch dam were John Bennoch, William Emerson, William Hammatt, Ard Godfrey, and Andrew G. Ring.

On the Lower Dam, writes Mrs. Rogers, "stood the Read mill, afterwards known as the stone mill, the Rigby mill, the Perkins block, and another block of mills. On the mainland side were the Union block, containing sixteen saws, and the six-saw block. The Union block, six-saw block, Perkins block, Island block, and the first mills at the Basin were built between 1833 and 1838." The Websters operated mills on the Lower Dam for many years before 1893, when J. Fred, Eben C., and Alden P. Webster built a paper mill on the site of the stone, Rigby, Perkins, and Island mills. Owners on the Lower Dam included the Websters, Nathaniel Treat, Benjamin P. Gilman, and John B. Hill.

The other water power in Orono was at Eayres (Ayres, Ayers) Falls at the Basin at the lower end of the village. The first mills here were built on a dam that reached from the western bank of the Penobscot to Eayres Island. Later a low dam was built from the island to the Bradley side of the river. When the water was low, this dam could turn the whole flow of the Penobscot into the eastern channel under the mills. The Great Freshet and resulting ice jams of 1846 swept away the entire block of mills at the Basin, but they were soon rebuilt. Most of the Basin mills were once owned by General Samuel Veazie, of Bangor and Veazie, who was one of the largest lumber operators on the Penobscot in his day. Others owners before the Civil War included the Richard S. Palmer Company, and James Walker.

Daniel Norton, the historian of Old Town, gives the following information about the Great Freshet of 1846, which lived long and vividly in the memories of the residents of Orono and other river towns.

"About the 20th of March," he wrote, "commenced a heavy rain storm, which rose the water in the river to such a height as to break up the solid blue ice, which was two and a half to three feet or more in thickness. The ice in the tidewater started, but jammed again at the narrows, some three miles below the city of Bangor. The floating ice filled up the channel of the river, causing the water to rise so high as to overflow the lower part of the city, coming into the stores near City Point to the depth of seven or eight feet.

“The jam of ice rose so high as to move the toll bridge between Bangor and Brewer bodily from its foundation, completely destroying it. The river continued to fill up, the jam backing up over Treat’s and Corporation (Veazie) Falls, moving the Corporation block of mills, in which were sixteen saws, with other machinery, bodily down into tide water. The jam soon backed up over Ayers Falls, and the Basin block of twelve saws went down the river and brought up in the jam within a few hundred rods of the Corporation block, but considerably more broken up. The river continued to fill up over the Great Works and Old Town Falls, and over Quoik and Sunkhaze Rips. The last important object of destruction was the Old Town and Milford toll bridge, which was torn from its foundation in the same manner as the Bangor bridge, and took up its march down the river.”

Mills and bridges were replaced and as early as 1842 Bangor was boasting that it had become the largest lumber market in the world. That year about 119 million feet of long lumber were shipped to various ports in the United States, the West Indies, and Europe, besides vast quantities of laths, shingles, and other commodities. Shipments from the Port of Bangor in 1850 included 203,754,201 board feet of long lumber, 40 million laths, 110 million shingles, and 5 million clapboards, besides huge amounts of pickets, hemlock bark, box shooks, cedar sleepers and posts, hoops and hoopoles, and other kinds of lumber. Another indication of the size of the lumber business at this period is that when the booms on the Penobscot River above Old Town were full, they inclosed six hundred acres of logs.

A surprisingly large portion of this vast annual harvest from the forests on the Penobscot watershed was manufactured at Orono. A great majority of the mills were located on the water powers at Milford, Old Town, Orono, and Veazie. Orono’s slice of the business is shown by the fact that of the 154 single saws, 15 gang saws, and 41 lath machines in the four towns, 68 single saws, 9 gang saws, and 25 lath machines were in Orono on the Stillwater and at Basin Mills. Of the 204 million feet of long lumber shipped from Bangor in 1850, it would seem that 62 million feet were sawed by the Orono mills. In addition these mills

had a yearly capacity of 19,000,000 laths, 2,200,000 clapboards, 2,000,000 shingles, 500,000 pickets, 20,000 barrels, 60,000 oars, and 40,000 staves. These figures appear to be fairly representative of the business for several decades.

Among the more prominent lumbermen who were citizens of Orono before the Civil War were John Bennoch, Ebenezer Webster and his son Ebenezer, Daniel White, Nathaniel Treat, Asa W. Babcock, and Benjamin P. Gilman.

John Bennoch, 1769-1842, was born in Scotland and came to America in 1793. With his partner, James Harrison, he came to Orono in 1806 and bought land and a double sawmill on Marsh Island. Later he built and operated mills on the Bennoch dam. He also kept store, exported lumber, and served as postmaster.

The Webster family was prominent in the lumber business in the Penobscot Valley for a hundred years. Andrew Webster came to Bangor in 1771 and to Orono about 1795. His son, Colonel Ebenezer Webster, 1780-1855, was an extensive owner of mills and timberlands and was active in various other enterprises. It is written that he spotted and swamped out the Military Road from Mattawamkeag to Haynesville about 1828. "Colonel Webster," wrote Governor Washburn, his son-in-law, "was a man of great enterprise and public spirit, and for more than half a century was one of the most active business men and most useful citizens of the town." Colonel Webster was followed in the lumber business by his son Ebenezer, Jr., his grandson, J. Fred Webster, and other members of the Webster family. That part of Orono village located on Marsh Island has long been called Webster.

Daniel White, 1796-1862, was born in Orono and lived for many years on a farm which is now a part of the Campus of the University of Maine. "He was perhaps the only man on the Penobscot River," writes Washburn, "who, prior to 1850, carried on for a term of ten or more years the business of lumbering and always preserved his credit intact and unsuspected. . . . Colonel Webster and John H. Pillsbury were often partners with him, and when they were they were pretty sure to make money." His brother Samuel was also in business with him at times.

Asa W. Babcock came to Orono about 1830 from Augusta. He built or controlled large sawmills on the Babcock and Bennoch dams. For many years he was more extensively engaged in the lumber business than any other citizen of Orono with the possible exception of Colonel Webster.

Nathaniel Treat, writes Mrs. Rogers, "came to Orono about 1829, when he and three others bought land and erected a saw-mill on Bennoch dam known as the Treat mill. From that time until about 1860 he was a large land and mill owner. His brother, Joseph Treat, was also a lumberman."

Benjamin P. Gilman, 1799-1884, came to Orono in 1841 and conducted a large lumbering business for a long number of years. From 1854 to 1867 he was president first of the Orono Bank and then of its successor, the Orono National Bank. The farm where he lived is now owned by the Penobscot Country Club.

Let us now leave lumbering for the time being and consider some other events that took place between 1840 and the Civil War.

Considerable progress was being made in the field of education. Orono was one of the earlier towns in Maine to establish graded schools. In 1851, common, "select," and high schools were in operation. In 1851, also, Orono did away with school districts, forty-two years before the State of Maine abolished the inefficient school-district system by law. That year Orono had ten school houses, two of which had been built within the year. Fifteen different teachers had been employed, two men and thirteen women. Teachers' wages averaged \$32.67 a month for the two men and \$1.70 a week for the women. The average length of school was 25.3 weeks, and the average attendance for the year was 418, almost exactly half the number of pupils of school age (four to twenty-one years).

The erection of a high school building had been for some time under consideration, and two able reports by the Reverend Henry C. Leonard, chairman of the school committee, influenced a favorable decision. The two-story building was erected in 1851 nearly opposite the Congregational church on Bennoch Street and is still standing. Members of the building committee

were Nathan H. Allen, Gideon Mayo, and Ebenezer Webster, Jr. The upper story was used for the high school and the lower story for a grammar school. The basement was used for some of the purposes of a town hall until one was built more than twenty years later. The high school was commonly in session for three terms a year, a total of thirty-six weeks. For some years about thirty students were enrolled. Apparently the school was financed for a time by assessments paid by the parents of the students.

The citizens of Orono were far from being satisfied with the service given them by the "back road" which came no nearer this village than Upper Stillwater. Thus agitation began in the forties for a railroad from Bangor that would follow the Penobscot River. In 1847 leading citizens petitioned for and received from the Maine Legislature a charter for the Bangor and Orono Railroad. Later the charter was amended to extend the line to Milford under the name of the Penobscot Railroad.

Work was begun on the road in 1851; but owing to the death of one contractor and the failure of another, it was not completed until 1868. In the meantime it had passed into the control of the European and North American Railroad Company, and was afterward leased by the Maine Central Railroad. The town of Orono had taken stock to the amount of \$25,000 in the road which was eventually lost. However, the road through Orono village became a part of the trunk line from Bangor to St. John instead of its rival that ran through Upper Stillwater. "So I think, and especially since you have paid the railroad debt to the last dollar, that you well may regard that investment as the most fortunate the town ever made," was the consolation offered by Governor Washburn.

After the liquidation of the Stillwater Canal Bank, Orono was without banking facilities for some years. Then in 1852 the Orono Bank was incorporated. Nathan Allen was the first president and Benjamin P. Gilman the second and last. The Orono Bank was a state bank, and after the passage by Congress of the act creating National banks, this bank was closed and was at once succeeded by the Orono National Bank. Mr. Gilman was the first president of the new bank. Elvaton P. Butler was cashier

of the first bank during its whole lifetime and of the second bank for many years. He was also treasurer of the town of Orono from 1844 most of the time until his death in 1884.

There were some good farms in Orono on the Bangor and Bennoch roads and on Marsh Island, but Orono has never been an important farming town. Perhaps its greatest claim to fame in this respect before the Civil War is that one of the most popular varieties of potatoes, for some years both before and after the war, bore its name. The Orono potato, which in those days ranked with the Jackson White in excellence, is said to have been originated by a Mr. Read who named it for his home town.

Professional men in Orono between 1840 and 1860 included the following physicians: John Ricker and William H. Allen during the forties, and Ricker, Allen, F. S. Holmes, Charles Alexander, and J. H. Thompson in the fifties. The lawyers were Frederick A. Fuller, Israel Washburn, Jr., Nathan Weston, and Nathaniel Wilson in the forties, and Washburn, Weston, Wilson, and Matthias Weeks in the next decade. Although not a lawyer, Samuel Buffum, ?-1859, was active as justice of the peace and postmaster for some twenty years. Said the Bangor Whig, "A magistrate for forty years standing he had probably tried more cases, cognizable under our laws by a justice of the peace, than any man now living in the state."

As to population, the number of people in Orono increased from 1,521 in 1840 to 2,785 in 1850 and then declined to 2,554 in 1860. In fact only once before 1900 did the population on a census year exceed that of 1850. Perhaps the principal reason for the failure of Orono to grow in numbers was because the town sat in the shadow of Bangor and yet was too far away in those days to become a residence for people employed in that city. Bangor was the great distribution center for Eastern and Northern Maine while Orono village did not even have a railroad until 1868. Bangor was the center of the lumber business in the Penobscot Valley, Orono could only claim to be a sawmill town. Bangor was one of the greatest lumber shipping centers in the United States; Orono shipped all her product through Bangor. For these and perhaps other reasons Orono had become mature by 1860 and firmly fixed in the course it was to follow for many years.

CHAPTER IV

The Town Serves The People

Orono's municipal record is similar to that of other Maine towns. The voters assembled at their March town meetings, elected officers for the ensuing year, voted money for various public purposes, and acted on other articles included in the town warrant. For a great many years the business of the town was confined almost entirely to the support of schools, construction and maintenance of highways, care of the poor, fire protection, and minor matters commonly classed as incidentals.

Then gradually the number of municipal services began to increase. How much they have increased is vividly shown by comparing the items for which money was appropriated at the town meeting in March 1881 with what was raised seventy years later. In 1881 money was voted for highways, common schools, free high school, incidentals, support of the poor, fire department, ringing the bell, bridge over Mac's Brook, town debt, and interest. Total appropriation was \$8,640. In 1951 the voters appropriated money for town officers, schools, incidentals, police, fire protection, hydrant rental, health nurse, repairs on sewers, rubbish and garbage disposal, ways and bridges, street lights, repairs on municipal buildings, poor relief, aid to dependent children, public library, Memorial Day, cemeteries, social security payments for town employees, Maine Publicity Bureau, state aid road, to revalue taxable property, tarring roads, to pay school bonds, interest on town debt, Maine Municipal Association, school equipment bonds, equipment for new high school building, community house, school lunch program, and dental hygiene. The total amount appropriated was \$179,861.

Orono town reports show that the town has usually been in debt, since the Civil War at least. During part of that struggle Orono's first citizen was also the first citizen of the State of Maine. Israel Washburn was War Governor from 1861 to 1863. The town did its patriotic duty by sending some two hundred of

its young men into the armed services. It also expended \$11,083 in bounties to encourage men to enlist and to encourage veterans to re-enlist after their first term of service had expired. That was a large sum for those days but the money borrowed for that purpose was fully repaid within ten years of the close of the war.

Orono's next venture into what one might call extra-curricular activities was taken shortly after the war ended. Members of the recently appointed board of trustees of the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts were about to select a location for the new institution. Several towns wished the honor and offered various inducements. The town of Orono, aided by some of the leading citizens in this area, offered to give two adjoining farms on Marsh Island, known as the Frost and White farms, for that purpose. The trustees living in the western part of the state favored locating the college at Topsham; those in the eastern part, at Orono. The final decision was in favor of Orono by a vote of eight for to seven against, one trustee not present. The farms were deeded by the "Inhabitants of Orono," to the trustees of the college, and a little later by the trustees to the State of Maine. As narrowly as that did Orono obtain the distinction of being a college town.

Most of Orono's bonded debt and other borrowings, except in anticipation of receipts from the collection of taxes, however, have been for municipal buildings, for the town-owned sewer system, and once for a concrete road.

Orono has had three town halls, all on the same spot. The original hall was built in 1873-4 and was dedicated March 3, 1874. The townspeople improved the occasion to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the first settlement. Former Governor Washburn gave the historical address, and the Reverend Henry C. Leonard, former pastor of the Universalist church, read a poem written for the occasion. Nathaniel Wilson was president of the day. Members of the building committee were Andrew G. Wing, chairman, Eben Webster, James Webster, Richard Lord, and Charles H. Colburn. The building was two stories high with a basement. The fire engine house and the town offices were located on the first floor and the hall was on the second. The building also had a kitchen and a room where the firemen held

meetings. It was heated by furnaces and lighted with gas.

The first town hall was burned in 1890 and was promptly replaced by the second. This building was also burned in January 1904 and the present hall was erected the same year. In each instance the town incurred a debt that it took some years to repay.

The people of Orono have been progressive in matters relating to education. We have already seen how, about 1850, Orono was one of the first of the smaller towns in Maine to abolish the old district school system, with its local school agents, and place all schools under one administration. It was also one of the first of the smaller towns to grade its schools and to establish a high school. Later, in the eighties, it was one of the first to teach music in the common schools.

Orono was also one of the pioneers in providing free text books for its scholars. In 1876, after having done so for some years, and due perhaps to "hard times," an attempt was made to sell books at cost to those who were able to pay for them and still give them free to those who were not. This plan presented its problems and seems soon to have been discarded. It was not until 1889 that the law of the State required towns to furnish free text books.

For a great many years prior to the erection of the school building on Birch Street there were usually ten primary schools in operation. They were commonly known by their old district names as the Main Street, Depot, Page, Basin Mills, Bennoch Road, Marsh Point, College Road, Old Railroad, Kelly, and Temple schools. In the early eighties, for example, these schools were open for two terms a year, spring and fall. The teachers were almost always women who were for a long time paid \$6 a week.

Then there were the intermediate schools, the select school, and the high school. The three or four intermediate schools were open in the winter only. Still it would seem that some of the pupils who attended the primary schools in the summer and fall also went to the intermediate schools. In 1882, at least, scholars were admitted to the intermediate schools who were able to read in the Second Reader or who were at least ten years of age.

The principal select school was located in the high school

building and much of the time was headed by the high school principal. For years teachers in the select school received \$8 a week in summer and \$9 in winter. About 1900 the intermediate and select schools were combined. The new school was called a grammar school and included the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

For thirty years, from 1870 to 1900, Stephen H. Powell was principal of the Orono High School and much of the time of the select school as well. He had usually one and sometimes two assistants in the high school. His salary seems to have been quite uniformly \$1,000 a year. It was not until 1884 that the school offered a course of study that prepared students for graduation. There were two members in the first class to graduate, that of 1885, Miss Foss and Miss Denico. Thirteen students graduated in the class of 1889 which was one of the larger classes before the end of the century. In 1899 studies were rearranged so that three courses were offered, English, Latin Scientific and Modern Languages Scientific. One notes with interest that Mrs. Wiggins' *Lessons in Manners* was introduced as a text book the year that the first class graduated.

Gradually the Orono schools became overcrowded, and as early as 1892 the school committee recommended that the town erect a large central school building. Nothing was done about that but attempts were made to relieve the congestion. First, in 1897, a new intermediate school was opened in the dining room in the town hall. Next, in 1900, a new grade school building was erected on Birch Street and the Bennoch Street grade school was closed. Then, in 1903, the town erected a new high school building on Main Street and the grammar school occupied the whole of the old building on Bennoch Street. The town was now about \$40,000 in debt. That amount was increased the following year when the present town hall was built to replace the second one that burned. The next step in improving school facilities was the erection of the Webster School building in 1909.

These buildings gave good satisfaction for a number of years but as the town grew the need for more room again became pressing, especially for the high school. To meet the need the Orono School District was formed in 1933 because the cost of the high-

school building that was contemplated would exceed the borrowing capacity of the town. Members of the Orono School Board, Arthur J. Stevens, Mrs. Emma L. Fitch, and Ferdinand H. Parady, became trustees of the school district. They secured from Federal sources the offer of an outright grant in aid of thirty percent of the cost of labor and materials and a long-time loan at four percent interest to cover most of the remainder of the expense. A committee, Weston S. Evans, G. Harold Hamlin, and Franklin W. Johnson, then president of Colby College, selected a desirable site for the proposed building. The whole matter was then referred to the voters of the town for action. They turned thumbs down.

Later new arrangements were made and the main section of the present high-school building was erected in 1939. About half the cost was met by a grant from the United States Public Works Administration. The original plans called for a combined auditorium and gymnasium but they were not then erected. For that reason and because of Federal Aid, expenses were kept within the legal borrowing capacity of the town and it was not necessary to use that of the high-school district.

In 1940 more than a hundred pupils were transferred from the seventh and eighth grades in the lower schools to the high school, which then adopted the six-year plan. This transfer relieved much of the congestion in the Birch Street, Bennoch, and Webster elementary schools.

These matters rested until after World War II and after the last of the town's sewer and highway bonds (soon to be mentioned) had been redeemed in 1946. The selectmen then appointed a citizens' committee of twenty-five members, with Dr. Roswell P. Bates as chairman, to study the situation and make recommendations for improving the educational facilities of the town. They recommended an addition to the high school building large enough to contain the combined auditorium and gymnasium, rooms for home economics and vocational training, and other facilities. Their recommendations were accepted and a new high school district was established by the Maine Legislature and approved by the voters of the town.

Bonds were issued, architect's plans were prepared, and the

addition was built in 1950-51. Dr. Asa C. Adams, Howard C. Nichols, and Richard S. Bradford were the original trustees of the Orono High School District. Members of the building committee were: Dr. Asa C. Adams, chairman, Allen F. Spruce, Parker G. Cushman, John H. Needham, Clarence M. Page, Mark R. Shibles, and Mrs. Iva S. Waring.

Orono's next issue of bonds for school facilities was approved by the voters in the spring of 1955. This was for the purpose of erecting a building to contain sixteen classrooms for the use of the elementary schools. The amount of the issue was \$375,000. This sum, together with the outstanding bonds of the Orono High School District amounting to \$207,000, and \$30,000 in other bonds gave the people of Orono in February 1956 a bonded indebtedness of \$612,000, all or nearly all of which has been or will be used for the development and modernization of the town's educational plant. Members of the building committee for the new school building, approved when the bonds were voted, are Dr. Asa C. Adams, chairman, Mary L. Giddings, Stephen R. Macpherson, Parker G. Cushman, Douglas A. Glanville, Spofford H. Kimball, Stacy R. Miller, John H. Needham, LeRoy S. Nickerson, Kathryn Richards, Edward E. Ross, and Mark R. Shibles.

In 1923 the town issued bonds to the amount of \$53,000 the proceeds of which were expended in building a concrete road on Main Street. It is said that this was the first section of concrete road in this area and was somewhat in the nature of an experiment. It was resurfaced just before the Second World War and part of it again in 1955.

The increase in the use of automobiles brought a demand for better roads both in summer and in winter. And in the spring of 1927 the road commissioner, Bert Read, stated that the sentiment of the people was in favor of keeping the roads open for autos in winter. The voters agreed with him and appropriated money for snow removal, as they have done ever since.

Orono's largest bond issue except for the concrete road and high and grade school buildings was one of \$50,000 voted at the spring town meeting in 1921. These bonds were to be expended for the construction of a sewer system for the town. Town of-

ficials soon learned that bonds could not be issued legally until the expense had been incurred. Accordingly they negotiated short-term notes as the work progressed and issued the bonds when it was completed. Perley B. Palmer, George H. Hamlin, and William E. Barrows were the members of the committee that represented the town. Weston & Sampson, of Boston, made the survey; and Dennis F. Crowley, also of Boston, was the contractor. He began work July 11, 1921. Incidentally, the mayor of Bangor warned Orono officials not to permit the discharge of sewage into the Penobscot River. The warning was disregarded. Most of the work on the sewer system was completed within the next two years, although additions have been made from time to time as the village has grown.

Besides the maintenance of roads and schools, three of the major functions of the town have been the care of the needy, fire protection, and the protection of persons and property. The care of the poor and unfortunate has always been one of the duties of the New England town. Orono, however, seems to have had little to do in this regard during its first quarter century after incorporation. The first vote taken in this respect was in 1812 when it was: "Voted to raise \$25 to be assessed with other taxes and to be made a present to Eliza Burton (or perhaps Barton) for taking care of her grandmother." The first time that money was definitely raised for the care of the indigent was in 1821 when the town raised \$400 "for the support of the poor and other town charges." Similar votes were taken thereafter until the town was divided in 1840. The Orono town-meeting records from 1840 to 1904 were burned and so there is a great gap in our source of information.

However the custom of bidding off the care of the poor at "vendue," or auction, which was practiced in some towns in the early part of the nineteenth century, seems not to have prevailed in Orono. Once, in 1834, the care of the poor was put up at auction in town meeting and assigned to the person who agreed to do so for the least money; but the usual method seems to have been that employed in 1829, when the selectmen agreed with Charles Tucker to board James P. Evans for ten shillings six-

pence a week, and with Elisha Lyshons to board John Lyshons for three shillings a week.

In 1824 the town voted not to build a "work house." But at some date after 1840 the town purchased the Orono Town Farm which it maintained as a poor farm for seventy-five years more or less. Between the Civil War and the First World War ten or twelve people were usually being cared for there, most of them either elderly persons or children. In recent years other methods of assistance, such as old age pensions, mothers' aid, the care of dependent children, and the policy of assisting needy persons in their own homes have made the poor house obsolete. The one in Orono was closed some twenty years ago. Incidentally, it was once customary to print the names of the inmates in the annual town reports. One year two children were listed whose names were given as Ino and Uno.

Persons who wish to know how Orono cares for her unfortunate citizens at the present time should consult Mrs. Annie Sullivan and Mrs. Marian Gannett who have done highly efficient work in this department for many years.

The story of Orono's fire department would fill a chapter by itself if space permitted. The destruction of the town records by fire leaves us in the dark as to the origin and early history of the department. The Orono Village Corporation, which was active between 1837 and 1840, had fire protection as its chief purpose, and doubtless there was then a volunteer fire department. For fifty or sixty years the town had three fire engines that were operated by hand. At first these hand engines were also drawn to the fires by hand, but afterward horses were used for that purpose. When the engines were purchased does not appear. But one town report says that the Tiger was made in 1837, the Monitor in 1854, and the Eagle in 1858. It is said that the Tiger was the first one purchased. They were used until the Monitor was sold for \$25 in 1907 and the Eagle and the Tiger were replaced by a new hose and chemical auto truck in 1921. The Eagle and the Tiger were later sold as museum pieces.

In earlier years these hand engines seem to have been kept in convenient barns or sheds. Perhaps the first engine house was Monitor Hall built around Civil War times, repaired in 1874, and

superseded by a new one built about 1892. The original hall has been remodeled and is now in use as an apartment house and the second hall is now the headquarters of the Boy Scouts of Orono. Both were used by the people of Webster as community and recreational centers.

The Eagle, it is said, was once kept in the basement of the original Catholic church which was built in 1869 on Mill Street. From 1874 until 1908 or 1909 it was stored in the engine room in the successive town halls. It was then transferred to the present engine house and police station on Bennoch Street, which was then newly built. Apparently the Tiger was usually kept in private storage at the Basin, at least after the Eagle was purchased.

Equally important was the water supply. Fires near the Penobscot or the Stillwater could be quenched with water from the river. Fires farther away presented a problem because of the limited distance that water could be pumped by hand. This problem was solved by constructing twenty or more cisterns at convenient locations. One was located, for example, under the town hall, another on the lawn of the present home of Freeman M. Sampson, and a third on that of Clarence Day, all on Main Street. Most of the cisterns were abandoned when the town began to rent hydrants in 1906, but a few in West Orono are still used in case of fire there.

For nearly a century the fire-fighting activities of the town came under the supervision of the fire wardens, of whom there were commonly three. It was not until 1906 that the department was organized much as it is at present, with Walter E. Hogan as the first chief. The successive chiefs have been: Walter E. Hogan, 1906 to 1909; William H. King, 1909 to 1914; Walter E. Hogan, 1914 to 1940; Edward L. Peters, 1940 to 1942; Walter Baker, 1942 to 1945; Eugene H. Littlefield, 1945 to 1946; and Edward L. Peters, 1946 to the present writing. The department now has three fulltime members and twenty-three others who are on call.

The town of Orono made no separate appropriation for police protection of life and property until 1941. This does not mean that the town did not provide this type of service for its citizens before that date. It only means that such services were

paid for out of the appropriation labeled "incidentals." However, up to about 1890 services rendered may well be described as incidental. They were performed principally by a long line of constables of whom Ard Godfrey, chosen when the town was organized, was the first. Here again we are handicapped by the lack of town records, but it would seem that Orono's first full-time policeman may have been William H. Clancy, who served for some months in 1891, beginning in April. Before that, special police were sometimes appointed for special occasions such as the Fourth of July.

Said the selectmen in their annual report: "Mr. Clancy, during his term, kept good order on the streets. We would advise the raising of a sum of money for police services. The property interest in the town is large and the danger of fire, either accidental or intentional, is not to be ignored." Their recommendation was not accepted.

One notes that the selectmen just quoted had fire protection as well as police protection in mind. Indeed as late as 1933 men on the police force were listed in the town reports, when they were listed at all, as night watchmen. Not until auto traffic became heavy was there a serious need for a full-time policeman in the daytime. No regular policy was followed in the employment of the police until well into the present century. Sometimes they served only on special occasions, sometimes on a part-time basis, sometimes for the full year.

The present police department was organized in 1942 with Augustine L. Dall as chief. Serving with him was Harry L. King, who had been long on the force. It was in wartime and cooperating with them were twenty-three men who served without pay as an auxiliary police force. They gave the town police protection eight hours every day during the year. The auxiliary force was reorganized in 1955 with Lawrence A. Chatto as chief. Augustine Dall has been chief of police since his first appointment except for a single year when John Reardon was acting chief.

Some other municipal activities merit mention. Street lamps were installed in 1884 in several places as an experiment. "The lights," wrote the selectmen, "add much to the safety and con-

venience of the citizens." The lamps burned kerosene. In 1888 the town paid \$230 for oil, chimneys, and care. In November 1890 the town contracted with the Old Town Electric Company to maintain electric lights on the streets and on Stillwater bridge for a period of years. Sixty-three lights were burning in 1893. The number has since increased many fold as new streets have been built. The town's bill for electricity was \$945 in 1892. It was \$5,197 in 1955.

There was an epidemic of smallpox in 1903, and the Board of Health resorted to wholesale vaccination. There were 16 cases of the disease and 128 persons were quarantined. The Lunt house was used as a pest house and 11 cases were cared for there. The next year there were 42 cases of diphtheria in Orono and three deaths.

For a number of years the town maintained a footwalk on the side of the Maine Central Railroad bridge across the Stillwater River. When a new railroad bridge was built about 1885, the railroad company agreed to maintain the walk in return for the right of way on "James Street." This agreement served for several years, and then the town found itself again keeping the foot bridge in repair.

Also in 1885 a bandstand was erected in "The Square," the gift of Henry Rolf. Five years later the town cooperated in the erection of a monument to the soldiers of the Civil War. It stood for fifty years in the square in front of the local bank and is now located on the much trampled lawn of the town hall.

Not until well within the present century did the town become much interested in the public health. We have already noted how the Board of Health functioned in the case of an epidemic. The town also arranged with local physicians to attend inmates at the poor farm and other needy persons when they were ill. Later it provided funds for maintaining a health officer who also became in time the school physician. Dr. Howard L. Jackson long served in this position which has now for some years been filled by Dr. Walter C. Hall.

Working in close cooperation with the public health officer has been the public health nurse. The town first appropriated money for this purpose in 1920. The nurse was then em-

ployed by the Old Town-Orono Anti-Tuberculosis Association, which had been organized in 1913. This association supported a nurse who devoted most of her time to the control of tuberculosis. It also maintained a summer camp for children who were victims of the disease. Late in 1920 this organization merged with the Central Penobscot Public Health Association, which included Orono, Old Town, Bradley, Milford and Veazie.

Some years later the Orono members withdrew from the larger organization and established the Orono Public Health Service, which has since served Orono people only and is affiliated with the Maine Tuberculosis Association. Other groups cooperating with the nursing committee are the selectmen and school officials of the town of Orono and the Red Cross. Much of the credit for the success of the association in earlier years belongs to Mrs. Alice Hart who was for a long time its chairman. Later for many years, Mrs. Roselle W. Huddilston was chairman, Mrs. Susan F. Day was treasurer, and Mrs. Annie R. Bartlett was nurse. Mrs. Mildred C. Bradbury is public health nurse at the present writing.

Besides the control of tuberculosis, the work of the health nurse has included temporary care of the sick, training homemakers to care for patients in their own families, maternity and child health nursing, and assisting the health officer with vaccinations, inoculations, examinations, and other services for school children. The town has provided the major part of her salary in recent years. Any person in Orono is entitled to request the services of the nurse in case of need.

Another community service initiated by a private organization and now maintained principally by the town is that of the Orono Public Library. The library was established, probably in the eighteen-eighties, by the members of the Orono Christian Temperance Union, and was maintained by them as a service to the citizens for some forty years. The town first voted money for their assistance in 1892. The amount was \$200. The article in the town warrant read: "To see if the town will raise money to aid the Ladies' W. C. T. U. in maintaining a free public library and reading room." The library then contained sixteen hundred volumes.

The town continued to raise two or three hundred dollars annually for the support of the library for a long term of years, and by 1929 had increased the amount to nine hundred dollars. One of the major sources of income, however, was the series of excellent dinners that the members of the W. C. T. U. served on town meeting day. In 1930 the town warrant contained this article: "To see if the town will vote to accept from the W. C. T. U. all its rights, title, and interest in the public library." The voters accepted the library and the town has maintained it ever since. However private persons and organizations have continued to contribute to its support. It now has more than twelve thousand volumes on its shelves. Librarians for the last half century have been: Mrs. L. P. Thompson to 1909; Miss Abbie L. Wilson, 1909 to 1919; Mrs. Susie C. Flint, 1919 to 1921; Edson F. Hitchings, 1921 to 1935; Mrs. Warner J. Morse, 1935 to 1946; and Miss Vera I. Hill, 1946 to the present writing.

The desire on the part of the people for more and better services, rising salaries, inflation, and the increasing cost of doing business have brought about a corresponding increase in the tax load of Orono citizens, just as it has in that of the tax payers elsewhere in Maine. For instance, the total amount of tax assessed on polls and estates in 1940 was \$124,294. In 1950 it had risen to \$175,317, and in 1955 to \$267,265. Amounts of some of the major appropriations for those fiscal years were: For education, \$35,500 in 1940, \$65,500 in 1950, and \$118,900 in 1955; for protection of persons and property (police, fire department, and rental of hydrants) \$12,900 in 1940, \$23,320 in 1950, and \$48,700 in 1955; for highways, \$7,801, and \$14,094, and \$27,966; and for charity and corrections, \$12,000, and \$5,000, and \$4,000 respectively. And the end is not yet?

CHAPTER V

The Old Order Changes

The history of the manufacture of lumber in Orono since the Civil War falls naturally into three periods — the heyday of the sawmills from 1865 to about 1890, the transition from building materials to pulp and paper, 1890 to 1914, and the era of the paper mills from that time until they finally went out of business about the beginning of the Second World War.

During the heyday period the dams on the Stillwater were crowded with sawmills, and yards filled with fragrant, freshly sawed lumber lined both banks of the lower reaches of that river. At Basin Mills the scenery was the same. One long mill stretched across the eastern channel of the Penobscot from the Orono bank to Ayers Island, and the groaning of the water wheels and the screech of the gang saws continued through the spring, summer, and fall months. The Adamses, Atwoods, Engels, Lincolns, Rings, Walkers, and Websters were the lumber lords of the day in Orono. Their mills were busy turning the old growth pines of the Penobscot Valley into laths, clapboards, shingles, boards, planks, and dimension timber from which cities were being built, and also into staves, pickets, shooks, and other products for more prosaic purposes.

The river was often crowded with logs on their way to the mills, and great lumber rafts floated serenely on their journey to the wharves at Bangor. The rafts had long lumber for their hulls and their decks were piled high with clapboards, laths, and shingles. Happy were the Orono boys who rode on these rafts nearly or all the way to Bangor even though they ran the risk of having to walk home.

The period of transition that began with the building of the first paper mill in 1889 lasted for twenty-five years. When it ended the manufacture of long and short lumber in quantity had also come to an end, and nearly all local employment was confined to the two paper mills.



Ferry Hill, about 1900.



Picture taken about 1890 of store where Treworgy's now stands.

There were several reasons for the change. The pine forests that had seemed inexhaustible were becoming exhausted after all. Lumbering crews were pressing farther and farther up the Penobscot and its branches for pine, and the logs that crowded the booms from Orono to Argyle were becoming smaller in size year by year. At the same time the once neglected spruce was increasing in importance. Following the Civil War, and especially during the eighties, processes had been perfected for reducing spruce logs into pulp for the making of many grades of paper, notably newsprint. King Spruce was challenging King Pine as the monarch of Maine forests.

Lumber mills on the Stillwater in Orono were being operated in 1889 by Adams & Company, J. W. Atwell, William Engel, Matthew Lincoln, Andrew G. Ring, Edmund T. Ring, Edgar E. Ring, and Eben C. and J. Fred Webster, and at the Basin by James Walker & Company. Atwell, Lincoln, Andrew G. Ring, and the Walker Company had been in business for many years, as had the Webster family. The others were more recent comers.

The industry that was to succeed them came to Orono that year. G. W. Stephens writes in Hatch's *History of Maine* that the Eastern Manufacturing Company, of Brewer, seems to have been the first in the state to manufacture wood pulp by the sulphide process. That was in 1889. Later the same year, the Orono Pulp and Paper Company began operations at its new mill on Ayers Island at the Basin and employed the same process. Thus the rivalry between the two industries for raw materials had begun, not only at Orono but elsewhere in the state and country.

During the nineties, J. W. Atwell, Andrew G. Ring, and Matthew Lincoln ceased to do business, and Edgar E. Ring sold his holdings on the Stillwater to the Ring and Webster Pulp and Paper Company. Then about 1902 the Adams Company retired from the scene of action. Only three of the large concerns were left, William Engel & Company, James Walker & Company, and the Websters. Later, in August 1910 the great Walker Mills at the Basin were burned. It is said that at that time they were the largest and longest sawmills in the United States run by water power. They were never rebuilt and the power rights were sold to an electric company.

A year or two later the Webster family dropped out of the lumber business after a hundred years of activity. By that time William Engel & Company owned all the mill sites on the Babcock dam and was the only large lumber manufacturing business left in Orono. Within another year or two their mills were also burned. They, too, were never replaced. With them Orono's principal source of income for nearly one hundred fifty years went up in smoke. Fortunately the two pulp and paper mills continued operation.

The Orono Pulp and Paper Company was listed in the *Maine Register* for the first time in 1890 and then annually until 1894. In 1895 and 1896 the Bangor Pulp and Paper Company is listed. But beginning again in 1897 the Orono Pulp and Paper Company is given an annual listing until it was absorbed by the Eastern Manufacturing Company, now the Eastern Corporation, about 1930. The Eastern operated the plant with some intermission until it was permanently closed. Perley B. Palmer was superintendent of the mill for some years.

Beginning in 1892 one finds the Webster Paper Company listed in the *Maine Register*. This was an enterprise of the Webster family. J. Fred Webster was president; Eben C. Webster, treasurer; and Alden P. Webster, superintendent. The mill was located on the Webster property at the lower end of Marsh Island near the mouth of the Stillwater. A little later the Ring and Webster Manufacturing Company was formed to deal in lumber and pulp. J. Fred Webster was president of this company and Eben C. Webster was its treasurer.

Then in 1898 the Webster Paper Company bought the Ring and Webster Manufacturing Company. Later the same year it became a branch of the International Paper Company. The new company had its headquarters in New York but Alden P. Webster continued for some years as superintendent of the mill. The mill made ground wood pulp but later, at least, bought pulp made by the sulphide process for some of its paper products.

Thus for half a century Orono had a stable pulp and paper industry. In 1913, for example, when the business of manufacturing long and short lumber was becoming moribund, the International mill employed about one hundred persons and the Orono

Pulp and Paper Company had about one hundred sixty employees. During the thirties the principal product of the International mill was a grade of paper used in printing wallpaper. At the same time the Eastern was advertising various grades of wrapping paper made at its Basin mill.

Soon after America entered the Second World War both mills yielded to the pressure of the changing times and ceased to operate. When they closed, the lumber industry that had been Orono's economic staff of life for more than one hundred and sixty years became history, a fading memory in the minds of men.

Orono has had several minor businesses that have been more or less closely connected with lumbering. Among them have been the manufacture of cantdogs, poles, boats, oars, and other equipment for river driving, and of matches.

"Between 1830 and 1840," wrote Mrs. Rogers, "John Bennoch built a cantdog factory which he subsequently sold to E. Mansfield and Company." The Mansfield business was conducted first by Edward Mansfield, Sr., and later by Edward Mansfield, Jr., and his cousin, Israel Mansfield, Jr. For a long term of years this was one of the most widely known business concerns in Orono; and its cantdogs, poles, and other equipment for river drivers enjoyed a wide reputation both in the United States and Canada. The company ceased to do business about 1907.

The Orono cantdog, of later years at least, was of the type that made the name of Peavey nearly as famous in the lumber woods as that of Paul Bunyan. The peavey was almost an Orono invention, but not quite. "In 1858, Joseph Peavey, of Stillwater," wrote Mrs. Fannie Hardy Eckstorm, "as he stood on the bridge there watching some river drivers at work with the old 'swing bail' cantdog, conceived the idea of an improvement in the tool. Going to his son's blacksmith shop nearby, he worked out his idea so quickly that he was able to put the now indispensable tool that bears his name into the hands of one of the same boat's crew that he had been watching, William Heald of Orono." The Peavey combined two heavy older tools, the loose-jaw cantdog and the pick handspike, in one much lighter and more serviceable implement. So it was that while the peavey was invented just over the town

line in Upper Stillwater, it was used for the first time by an Orono man.

Several concerns have made boats or oars or both. James Hamilton made oars from about 1842 until some time in the fifties, when he bought a sawmill from Benjamin P. Gilman which he operated until his death some years later. The Vinals also made bateaux and oars for perhaps thirty years before 1900. Their business was conducted first by Elijah and Charles and later by Charles and Phineas Vinal under the firm name of C. M. Vinal & Co.

William C. Taylor was engaged in the manufacture of oars and paddles as long ago as 1858. Since his death early in the present century, the business has been conducted under the firm name of Shaw and Tenney. This is now the oldest business enterprise in Orono.

At least two Orono concerns have made matches. The first was started by Anson Allen who later had Henry Powers as a partner. Allen and Powers were doing business as early as 1871 and as late as 1894. John Chase also manufactured matches for a few years in the eighties.

Mention has been made of the fact that the concern of Shaw and Tenney is the oldest concern now doing business in Orono. Next oldest is the hardware business of Fred C. Park which was started about 1892 by the present owner. The Nichols Drug Store has been in operation for fifty years or more as has the Penobscot Water Company, formerly the Orono Water Company. Persons who have been in business in Orono between thirty and forty years include Edward L. Peters, garage; B. K. Hillson, cleaners and dyers; and Edward J. Virgie, clothing and footwear. The Byer Manufacturing Company has been in business since 1926, first in the manufacture of camp furniture and now of sporting goods.

Mention has been made of the lawyers and physicians who practiced in Orono before 1875. During the past eighty years a number of persons in both professions have come to Orono and have remained for but a comparatively short time, but several have accomplished their life work here. Among the lawyers was Charles J. Dunn, who was in active or partial practice for nearly fifty

years, and John H. Needham, who has had nearly thirty years of practice and who is the present representative from Orono in the Maine House of Representatives.

Among the physicians were Drs. E. N. Mayo, J. H. Knox, and B. K. Kelleher in the last quarter of the nineteenth and first decade of the twentieth centuries; and Drs. C. H. Bayard and E. Tomlinson during the first quarter of the present century and well into the second. Dr. Walter C. Hall has been one of Orono's physicians for some fifty years and Dr. Asa C. Adams for more than a quarter century. Orono's other physicians, Dr. Roswell P. Bates and Dr. Elmer M. Sewall have been in town for some years.

A number of Orono men have been prominent in the government of the State of Maine. Charles J. Dunn was Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 1918 to 1935 and Chief Justice from 1935 until his death in 1939. Edgar E. Ring was Commissioner of Forestry from 1901 to 1911 and Albert D. Nutting is the Commissioner at the present writing. Albert K. Gardner was Commissioner of Agriculture from 1945 to 1949. Orono has had two members of the Governor's Executive Council, Charles Buffum in 1871 and Dr. Roswell P. Bates at the present time. Buffum also served as President of the Senate and Bates as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Many Orono people might be cited who were prominent in other walks of life but lack of space forbids. Still we may recall that two natives of Orono were brigadier generals in the Civil War, James H. Carleton and Charles D. Jameson, who was a grandson of Jeremiah Colburn. General Jameson was also the candidate for Governor for the War Democrats in 1861 and again in 1862.



Orono Town Hall — 1956.



Orono High School — 1956.

CHAPTER VI

The Orono Churches

Orono has had four religious denominations that have served their communicants and the welfare of the town faithfully and well. They have been the Methodists; the Congregationalists and Universalists, now united in the Church of Universal Fellowship; and the Roman Catholics. This chapter will recall some of the highlights in their history.

Orono people were slow in perfecting a church organization. More than fifty years elapsed between the arrival of Colburn and Eayres in 1774 and the formation of the first religious society in 1826. This delay does not mean that the people were all that time without religious services. Rather it means that they were too few in number, too poor, or too divided in doctrine to support a settled minister. As a matter of fact services were held more or less frequently by the Congregationalists, Methodists, and perhaps other denominations.

Congregationalists were first in the field. During the long period before Orono had a resident pastor, their services were conducted by ministers from "down river" such as the Reverend Seth Noble, first resident minister in Bangor, or by itinerant preachers sent to the newer and more remote sections of the state by the Maine Missionary Society. Prominent among these home missionaries were the noted "Father" Jotham Sewall, who has recorded that he preached twenty-seven times in Orono, and "Father" John Sawyer, who was one of the founders and for forty-four years a trustee of the Bangor Theological Seminary. These men made long journeys through the budding towns, preaching, teaching, converting, baptizing, and forming new churches as they had opportunity.

One of the earliest itinerants was the Reverend Daniel Little, of Kennebunk, whose devotion to duty in this respect earned for him the honored title of "Apostle of the East." His first visit here, perhaps, was made in September 1786. He had been sent to

establish a school and provide religious instruction for the Penobscot Indians at their village up river. His Indian mission proved a failure, but while in this area he conducted for a short time a school for white children at a place that he called "Rumseek-hungus." Here he found living Mr. Colburn and six other families. For a short time he had eleven of their children in what may have been the first school held within the limits of the present town of Orono.

The Congregationalists were the first to form a church organization. May 18, 1826, they organized a church society with fourteen members — five from older churches and "nine persons from the world." Four ministers were present at the ceremony. They were the Reverends John Sawyer; Swan L. Pomeroy, of Bangor; John Smith, of the Bangor Theological Seminary; and Jubilee Williams, of Frankfort. John Perry and Bancroft Williams were the first deacons of the church. During the next few years the infant church was served by supplies, some of them from the Bangor Theological Seminary, and membership doubled.

Meantime religious services were held in a schoolhouse or in homes. But the need for a church building became more and more pressing, and March 19, 1831, the First Congregational Society of Orono was incorporated for the purpose of holding property and transacting other business. A year later the Reverend Josiah Fisher was installed as the first settled pastor of the church. Under his leadership the society went forward and erected a meeting house on Bennoch Street. Hugh Read and Israel Brown were the builders. The new edifice was formally dedicated April 17, 1834.

Mr. Fisher resigned in 1835, and during the next nineteen years eight ministers successively served the church. Then the Reverend Stephen L. Bowler, a graduate of Bangor Theological Seminary, came and remained ten years, 1854 to 1864. After he came, wrote Percia Vinal White, "the church took on new life. Possessed of a commanding presence, a superb voice, and an eloquent and impressive 'gift of prayer,' Mr. Bowler was in the forefront of the preachers of his day. He did grand work in building up the spiritual power and influence of the church at Orono."

The next minister was the Reverend Smith Baker, who re-

mained for seven years, 1864 to 1871. During his pastorate, "which was marked by a most affectionate regard between pastor and people," the meeting house received extensive alterations and repairs. The building was raised and a much needed vestry was constructed beneath the auditorium. Money was secured for this purpose by assessing the pew holders and by selling the parsonage on Mill Street.

During the next thirty-five years, the church had six pastors and continued to minister to the spiritual needs of its constituents and the town. In 1898, through the will of Deacon Edward Mansfield, who had died in 1893, and an agreement with his adopted daughter, Helen M. Mansfield, the society became the owner of the Mansfield homestead. This fine home near the church made a most desirable parsonage.

After seventy years of use the meeting house itself was again in need of repairs. The Reverend John M. Brockie became pastor in 1906 and extensive renovations were made under his guidance and that of the building committee. Members of this committee were George H. Hamlin, Lueius H. Merrill, and Horace M. Estabrooke, all members of the faculty of the University of Maine. Among the additions was an excellent pipe organ that was presented to the Orono church by the First Congregational Church of Brewer. The building was rededicated November 4, 1907. The Reverend Smith Baker, now of Portland, preached the dedication sermon.

Methodists were next in the field. The Reverend Jesse Lee, founder of Methodism in Maine, visited the Penobscot region several times, beginning in 1793. He may have been the first minister of his denomination to preach in Orono, although of that one cannot be quite sure. However, in his account of his first mission to Maine, Lee wrote: "I went as far as Castine, at the mouth of the Penobscot River, then up the river to the upper settlements, which were then just below the Indian settlement called Old Town." In 1795 he was instrumental in organizing a Methodist circuit that extended from Union to Orono. The Reverend Joshua Hall was the first itinerant on this circuit. As the work grew, the territory was divided and Orono was included first in the Orrington and later in the Bangor circuits.

The Reverend John Atwell, who was pastor of the Orono Methodist Episcopal Church in 1840-41 and again in 1857-59, and who died here in 1868, wrote in brief: "When I was first stationed on the Penobscot in 1812 or 1813, Orrington, which was my circuit, extended from Orland to Hemlock Stream, now Argyle. The names of Marsh, Jameson, and Colburn, in Orono, will long fill a permanent place in the history of Methodism in that region." One result of the devotion of these early circuit riders was that two sons of John Marsh, William and Jeremiah, became Methodist clergymen.

In 1829 Orono was made a regular Methodist charge with a minister of its own. Pastors in 1829, 1830, and 1831, were, successively, the Reverends Greenleaf Greely, Charles L. Browning and Joseph H. Jenne. While Mr. Jenne was here subscriptions were started to raise funds for building a meeting house, which was erected during the term of the next pastor, the Reverend Mark Trafton. The building was raised August 22, 1833. It was completed and the pews were sold in June 1834. The Reverend Joshua Hall preached the dedication sermon.

The society was incorporated in 1835 under the name of the Oak Street Chapel Society. During the two following years the town experienced the greatest revival of religion that it had experienced up to that time. The number of conversions exceeded one hundred, and many members were added to the Methodist Church. The Reverend Caleb Fuller was then pastor.

Thirty years passed and in 1867 the church building was thoroughly repaired. In 1872 about fifty conversions were reported under the ministry of the Reverend Leonard H. Bean. For many years prior to 1878 the minister appointed by the Methodist bishop to serve in Orono was also the pastor of the church at Veazie, and that year Old Town was added to his charge. Later Orono and Upper Stillwater were combined but without Veazie and Old Town. Still later Orono was made a separate charge.

During the early 1890's the meeting house was completely remodeled. The building was raised and a vestry and parlors were constructed under the audience room. That room was altered and enlarged and new pews and windows were installed. The present parsonage was built in the summer of 1901 on the site of

an older one. A few years ago the auditorium was again redecorated, and only last year a two-story addition was completed for the better accommodation of the church school in which about four hundred young people are enrolled.

During its first eighty years, 1829 to 1909, the Orono Methodist Church had forty-two pastors. This was owing to the long-standing policy of the denomination to permit its ministers to remain not longer than three years at the same station. This rule has since been modified and longer terms of service have become common. Indeed Orono has had only four pastors in the last twenty-seven years: Herman D. Berlew, Elwin L. Wilson, Alfred G. Hempstead, and the present pastor, Chauncey D. Wentworth.

One other Protestant denomination has been active in Orono, the Universalists. As early as 1836 an attempt was made to form a society but without result. Some years later (1843) under the leadership of the Reverend L. P. Rand, the First Universalist Meetinghouse Corporation was organized for the purpose of building and maintaining a house of worship. Petitioners for incorporation were Israel Washburn, Jr., Andrew W. Weymouth, J. F. Spaulding, Samuel Abbott, Samuel Pingree, Jacob Banks, Samuel Buffum, and Joshua Johnson. August 24 of the same year the First Universalist Society of Orono was organized. The building was completed and dedicated in August 1844. Reverend Mr. Rand preached the sermon of dedication.

Mr. Rand was succeeded by the Reverend Henry C. Leonard, who was pastor from 1846 to 1855. Only one other pastor, the Reverend L. Barstow, served more than five years. He was in Orono from 1857 to 1865. The church prospered under these two ministers. A Sunday school was established in 1847. Twice before the Civil War additional space was provided for growing church activities. Once that was done by finishing the vestry, and once by cutting the building in two, moving the rear section outward, and filling in a space large enough to contain sixteen pews.

In 1853 the meeting house was provided with a bell and the town clock was installed in the steeple. The church financed part of the expense largely through amounts raised by the women's society. The town of Orono paid the remainder and until fairly recent years paid a caretaker for "winding the clock."

Another organization had been formed in 1851 for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a parsonage and was called the Universalist Parsonage Association. Then in 1861 St. John's Parish was incorporated. The three older associations next transferred their rights and property to the parish, thus combining all the activities of the church under a single head. The Legislative Act for the incorporation of St. John's Parish was signed by one of the incorporators, Israel Washburn, Jr., then Governor of Maine. The minutes of the transfer of property from the older societies are also in Governor Washburn's handwriting.

Three times in the next fifty years the edifice received extensive renovation and repairs, in 1863, between 1886 and 1889, and again between 1903 and 1907. During the second period, stained glass windows were installed in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Buffum, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Weymouth, and Mr. and Mrs. Levi Weeks. The third time was during the pastorate of Mrs. Nellie M. Opdale, the only woman to serve the church as pastor. New pews were provided, a new kitchen was added, and a pipe organ was installed. The organ was paid for in part by the parish and in part by a gift from Mrs. Andrew Carnegie. Windows were donated by their families in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Niah Gould and of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Treat.

As doctrinal differences became less pronounced, leaders in the Congregational and Universalist churches in Orono began to consider the desirability of uniting in a single organization. The proposition met with favor and gradually plans were prepared for the union. These plans received the approval of a majority of the members of both churches and in 1918 the union was accomplished. The new organization was called the United Parish of Orono.

However, in time a lack of harmony developed and the members of the former church societies agreed to go their separate ways once more. This they did for several years, but the forces of mutual interest and attraction prevailed, and about 1942 they came together again in a single church body which has since been called the Church of Universal Fellowship. Pastors of the church since reunion have been the Reverends Raymond J.

Baughan, David D. Rose, and the present pastor, Milton M. McGorrill. The church is now more flourishing than either of its predecessors at any time in their long history. Recently the parish has purchased and remodeled for religious purposes a dwelling house that is situated next door to the church edifice, which is the old Universalist meeting house of former days.

One may say that the Roman Catholics were both the earliest and the latest of the four church organizations to serve the people of Orono. They were the earliest because, long before there were any English settlers in Eastern Maine, missionary priests were ministering to the Indians who were then living within the boundaries of what became the original town of Orono, and because there is evidence that they were active in what became St. Joseph's Parish in Old Town, then a part of Orono, as early as 1825. They were the latest because the Catholic population in the present town of Orono was almost non-existent when the three Protestant churches were organized.

St. Mary's Parish in Orono was formerly a part of the older St. Joseph's Parish in Old Town. Father John Bapst, of Bangor, who was prominent in Catholic circles in his day, celebrated the first mass of record in Orono in the home of Mrs. Alexander Willett in 1848. At that time there were about twenty Catholic families here, writes Mrs. Rogers. Then for some years the sacrifice of the mass was offered in a small, red house owned by Patrick McChrystle, who was the pioneer Catholic in Orono. Still later services were held at the home of Peter McChrystle, which afterward became the parochial residence. During the earliest period Father Bapst was assisted by another Bangor priest, the Reverend James Durnin.

By 1869 the Catholic population of Orono had increased to fifty families and the time was ripe for the erection of a church edifice, which was built that year through the efforts of Father McFaul, of Old Town, who was then in charge of the Orono mission. The wooden building was located on Mill Street and is now a part of the plant of the Byers Manufacturing Company. Father McFaul was succeeded by Father John Duddy, of Old Town, and Orono continued to be a mission. Next came Father Charland, who was followed in turn by Father Michael C.

O'Brien, who was afterward vicar-general of the Diocese of Maine.

Next Monsignor Francis X. Trudel had charge of the mission and continued to serve until 1883. In December of that year St. Mary's Parish was made an independent parish with the Reverend Henry Haymaker as the first resident priest. At that time there were some seven hundred communicants. Father Edmund Genereux succeeded Father Haymaker as pastor in 1888 and remained in charge of the spiritual welfare of his people for eleven years.

Then in October 1899 began the longest pastorate in the history of St. Mary's Parish, that of the Reverend John M. Harrington, who served faithfully until his death in 1926. His pastorate of twenty-seven years was not only one of great length but also one of great achievement.

"At the turn of the century," writes one of his successors, Father Thomas M. Nelligan, "Father Harrington purchased the property on Main Street which is the site of the present parish buildings. With wise foresight, he was planning for the future. The present buildings bear testimony to his zeal and courage. With the support of less than three hundred Catholic families, Father Harrington erected, in 1905, the present stone church. This church was dedicated by the Right Reverend Bishop Walsh of Portland in October 1906, as his first official act after taking charge of this diocese.

"Father Harrington then looked forward to the erection of a school. This priestly ambition was realized in 1914 when a stone building — a school of the most modern type at that time — was erected. He was not content with a school that would include only the grammar grades. Under the name of the Orono Catholic High School he extended the courses of study to include the four years of high school. It was at this time the only Catholic school in Maine with a high school for boys and girls."

Of these buildings Mrs. Rogers wrote: "The church is a noble structure with a seating capacity of six hundred. It is built of red granite and field stone and architecturally is most impressive. In the belfry is a splendid memorial bell presented by James McNulty in memory of his parents. The parochial school is of cast

stone and field stone and the combination is most artistic. The building is well adapted for the purpose for which it is intended. In the curriculum of the school is every grade from the kindergarten to the senior class in high school."

The Sisters of Mercy came to Orono when the school was established in 1914 and have since then served as its teachers. Mother Mary Raymond was the first principal and also the first mother superior of the convent next door. Attendance at the school has varied through the years, but in 1955 thirty-two students were enrolled in the high school and one hundred and fifty in the grades.

Father Harrington's successor was the Reverend Thomas J. O'Dowd who continued the work of developing the church from 1927 until 1942 when he was promoted to be pastor of St. Mary's Parish at Augusta. The next priest was the Reverend Maurice Boland, whose pastorate began in 1942 and ended in 1950 when he was transferred to Holy Trinity Parish at Saco. The Very



Monument in memory of Chief Joseph Orono, and St. Mary's School.

Reverend Thomas M. Nelligan has been pastor of St. Mary's since 1950.

Two societies have long been active in the work of the parish, the Joseph Orono Council, Knights of Columbus and St. Mary's Circle, Daughters of Isabella. The first will celebrate their sixtieth anniversary this year. The second observed their twenty-fifth anniversary in 1953. The tall monument in the yard of the church was erected by the Knights of Columbus some years ago in honor of Joseph Orono for whom both the Council and the town of Orono are named.



Israel Washburn, Jr., Orono lawyer from 1834, member of U. S. Congress, Governor of Maine 1861-2.

CHAPTER VII

The University of Maine

The University of Maine has grown from the most modest beginnings until now it is the largest institution of higher education in the state of Maine. Most of its faculty of over four hundred members and their families are permanent residents of Orono, and the student body adds several thousand persons to the population of the town during the academic year. Orono's fame as a lumber manufacturing town is fading into the past. Education is now the leading industry.

It was on April 25, 1865, that the first Board of Trustees of the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts met at the State House in Augusta for their first meeting. The State, by an act of the Legislature dated March 25, 1863, had accepted the terms of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act, passed by the Congress the previous year and signed by Abraham Lincoln. By so doing the State had pledged itself to support at least one college that would "teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts . . . in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life." The trustees were embarking on a new and uncharted course in the realm of higher education.

More than three years were spent in preliminary work before the college opened its doors to students on September 21, 1868. Two members comprised the entire faculty. Merritt C. Fernald was acting president and professor of mathematics and physics and Samuel Johnson was instructor in agriculture and farm manager. The first catalog was issued in 1868 and gave a complete course of study for the freshman year only. Other courses were added as the students progressed toward their senior year. By the time of the first graduation four complete four-year courses had been established — Agriculture, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Elective.

When the campus was acquired in 1866, it had on it two sets

of farm buildings somewhat out of repair. The first building for strictly classroom use was a wooden one erected in 1867-68 and known first as White Hall and later as Wingate Hall. It was burned in 1890 and the present Wingate Hall was erected on the same site. In 1870 the Maine Legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the college and two brick buildings were erected. They were constructed from brick burned on the campus and were later named Fernald Hall and Oak Hall.

The first class graduated in 1872. There were six members, Benjamin F. Gould, George E. Hammond, Edwin J. Haskell, Heddle Hilliard, Eber D. Thomas, and George O. Weston. Exercises were held in the Orono Methodist Church as there was then no building on the campus adapted to the purpose.

The same year (1872) the college was made co-educational and one woman, Louise Hammond Ramsdell, was admitted as a junior. She graduated in the Class of 1874. However, during the next twenty years the number of women seldom exceeded ten, and from 1888 to 1894 there were never more than two.

Dr. Fernald asked to be relieved of the duty of acting president in 1871. The Reverend Charles F. Allen was then chosen president and served until 1878. During his administration attendance did not greatly increase, but the quality of instruction continued to improve year by year. The infant college was severely handicapped by lack of funds. It had no endowment, except that derived from the federal grant of land, and by law tuition was free to Maine students. State appropriations for all purposes averaged about \$13,000 annually.

Dr. Fernald succeeded Dr. Allen as president in 1879 and served until 1893. The "Greenback" Legislatures of 1879 and 1880 looked with jaundiced eyes on what in derision was often called the "cow college." That of 1879 not only refused to make any appropriation whatever for the needs of the college but also required all students to pay tuition. That of 1880 voted only \$3,000 for the next fiscal year. Moreover a vigorous attempt was made to limit instruction to three years and to prescribe by law the exact subjects that should be studied. Such subjects as arithmetic, algebra, rhetoric, elements of geology, forge-work and carpentry were among those specified. All languages except Eng-

lish, higher mathematics, and nearly all engineering subjects would be banned. The friends of the college with difficulty prevented the passage of this bill, which, they believed, spelled ruin. Nor was the Legislature of 1881 much more friendly. Their appropriation of \$3,000 was to cover a two-year period.

Legislative action (and the kind of public opinion that prompted it) especially in imposing tuition, gave the college a body blow from which it took some years to recover. The Class of 1883, the first to pay tuition for the full four years, graduated only fourteen members, and not until 1888 did the number of graduates in any one year exceed twenty.

None the less the institution made excellent progress under Dr. Fernald. While the student body remained small, the faculty increased from nine to nineteen, and the quality of instruction improved both in method and subject matter. Among the members of the faculty who remained for a long term of years and thus gave the college a measure of continuity, were, besides President Fernald, Albert B. Aubert, Walter Balentine, James M. Bartlett, Gilbert M. Gowell, George H. Hamlin, James N. Hart, Francis L. Harvey, Lucius H. Merrill, Allen E. Rogers, Fremont L. Russell, and James S. Stevens.

In 1885 the Maine Legislature established an agricultural experiment station in connection with the college under the name of The Maine Fertilizer Control and Agricultural Experiment Station. It was organized the same year with Dr. Whitman H. Jordan as the first director. He resigned in 1896 to become director of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, where he became one of the country's most noted leaders in agricultural research.

Two years later (1887) the Congress passed the Hatch Act that established an agricultural experiment station in every state. The Maine law was repealed and thenceforth the station was largely maintained by federal funds. In 1888 a brick building was erected for station use. Later it was named Holmes Hall in honor of Dr. Ezekiel Holmes who deserves great credit for his part in the establishment of the college as a separate institution.

One of the requirements of the Morrill Act of 1862 was that land-grant colleges should give military instruction. Until 1882

this activity had been financed by the college, but that year an instructor was assigned to the college by the War Department. This arrangement is still in operation. For a long time students taking military were known as Coburn Cadets in honor of Governor Abner Coburn who was president of the Board of Trustees from 1867 to 1881. Governor Coburn also bequeathed to the college \$100,000 to be added to the endowment fund of the institution.

Another important source of revenue became available in 1890 through the passage by the Congress of the Second Morrill Act, "for the more complete endowment and maintenance of colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts." Money received under the terms of this act increased year by year until the full amount of \$50,000 became available. Dr. Fernald resigned as president in 1893 but continued to teach except for brief intervals until 1908, just forty years after he became the first member of the faculty.

The next president was Abram W. Harris, 1893-1901, who had been chief of the Office of Experiment Stations, United States Department of Agriculture, immediately before coming to Maine. Changes during his term of office included the remodeling of Oak Hall, the enlargement and remodeling of the old White farmhouse as the first dormitory for women under the name of Mt. Vernon House, and the erection of Alumni Hall, which was financed in part by gifts from alumni, faculty, and friends. The student body increased from 139 in 1893 to 384 in 1901; and the number of faculty members from 19 to 57. New members of the faculty who were to remain for many years included Charles D. Woods, director of the experiment station from 1896 to 1920, Archer C. Grover, John H. Huddilston, Ralph K. Jones, and Charles P. Weston.

One event during this administration is a landmark in the history of the institution. In 1897 the Legislature of the State of Maine changed the name from Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts to University of Maine. Radical changes in organization followed. By 1900 the old departments had been rearranged, new departments added, and all of them grouped in five colleges — Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Engineering,

Law, and Pharmacy. The agricultural experiment station was the only other major division. The College of Engineering soon became the College of Technology. The College of Pharmacy, first established as a department in 1894, was reduced to a department in the College of Technology in 1911, and was discontinued some years later. The College of Law was established in 1898 with George E. Gardner as dean. It was located in Bangor. Beginning in 1899 the College of Arts and Sciences offered a classical course that qualified students for the degree of Bachelor of Arts. This degree was conferred upon one student that year for the first time.

President Harris was succeeded by George E. Fellows, who served from 1902 to 1910. Dr. Fernald acted as president for a few months between the two administrations. The University continued to grow rapidly. Many new courses were offered and the student body doubled in size. The first dean to be appointed was Dean Gardner of the College of Law. He was succeeded in 1902 by Dean William E. Walz. In 1903 Professor James N. Hart, who had been one of the faculty since 1887, was made dean of the University. Two years later deans were appointed in two more colleges, James S. Stevens in the College of Arts and Sciences and William D. Hurd in the College of Agriculture. The College of Technology was without a dean until the appointment of Harold S. Boardman in 1910. Leon S. Merrill succeeded Dean Hurd in 1911.

New faculty members who remained for many years included Harold S. Boardman, who had served briefly under President Harris and now returned, Bertrand F. Brann, George D. Chase, Miss Caroline Colvin, Everett W. Davee, James A. Gannett, Leon S. Merrill, Warner J. Morse, Miss Edith M. Patch, Raymond Pearl, George E. Simmons, Frank M. Surface, and Harley D. Willard.

The greatest development took place in the College of Agriculture. For the first thirty-five years the number of agricultural students was very small. As late as 1905 only 31 persons were registered in this college, but by 1910 the number had increased to 142, and by 1915 to 331. The growth in the student body was accompanied by an increase in the size of the faculty, in the number of courses taught, and in buildings and equipment.

Noteworthy among the new courses were those in Domestic Science, now Home Economics, which resulted in a welcome increase in the number of women students. The two-year short courses in agriculture, started under President Harris but soon discontinued, were revived and made permanent. Winslow Hall was erected in 1908 to provide administrative offices and much needed classrooms, and smaller buildings were erected for specific purposes. The first Farmers' Week, now Farm and Home Week, was held in 1907, and has now become the outstanding agricultural event of the year in Maine. From the very beginning the agricultural faculty had been doing a certain amount of off-campus teaching of the kind now known as Extension work. These activities were now placed under the direction of a faculty member of the department of agronomy who devoted about half time to teaching and half to Extension subjects. Then in 1910 Extension activities were separated from regular resident teaching and Leon S. Merrill was appointed director. With this action the activities of the University in the field of agriculture became organized along the lines on which they have since developed, resident instruction by the College of Agriculture, research by the Agricultural Experiment Station, and extension work by the Extension Service.

Other advances under President Fellows included the revival of the Summer School and the establishment of a department of education in the College of Arts and Sciences, which has since become the School of Education. New buildings besides Winslow Hall were Lord Hall, for the use of the College of Technology; Hannibal Hamlin Hall, a men's dormitory; and Carnegie Hall, a gift from Andrew Carnegie which housed the library until recent years. Several fraternity houses were also erected. Without them it would have been impossible to find housing for all the men who wished to obtain a college education. In 1907, for the first time, the Maine Legislature provided over \$200,000 for the ensuing biennium.

Upon the resignation of President Fellows in 1910, Dean Hart served as acting president for a short time until the appointment of Robert J. Aley. Early in this administration Dr. Fernald,

now retired, realized a long-standing ambition. That was to see the numbers of the student body pass the one thousand mark. In 1912 there were 1,011 students enrolled, including those taking winter courses and in the summer school. Of that number 77 were women.

Dr. Aley served as president from December 1911 to August 1921. During that time enrollment, including students in summer school and winter short courses, increased from 858 to 1,466; the number of graduates annually from 161 to 215; and the number of women graduates from 7 to 41. Indicative of sturdy and permanent growth was the number of new members of the faculty who were to remain connected with the University for from twenty to more than forty years. They included Herbert B. Abbott, Frances E. Arnold, John H. Ashworth, Mark Bailey, William E. Barrows, Charles E. Brautlecht, Marion L. Buzzell, Ava H. Chadbourne, Chauncey W. L. Chapman, Lamert S. Corbett, Walter J. Creamer, Charles E. Crossland, Clarence A. Day, Arthur L. Deering, Llewellyn M. Dorsey, Robert R. Drummond, Milton Ellis, Weston S. Evans, Albert K. Gardner, Leigh P. Gardner, Arthur S. Hill, Herbert S. Hill, Maurice D. Jones, Maynard F. Jordan, Benjamin C. Kent, H. Walter Leavitt, Alpheus C. Lyon, Harry R. Perkins, Roy M. Peterson, W. Sherman Rowe, Harry W. Smith, Adelbert W. Sprague, Harold C. Swift, Richard F. Talbot, Harry D. Watson, Ralph C. Wentworth, and Albert A. Whitmore.

Another measure of growth was the erection of new buildings on the campus. They were a new dairy barn; Aubert Hall, mainly for instruction in chemistry and physics; and Balentine Hall, the second dormitory for women. The old Goddard (or Frost) farmhouse was enlarged, remodeled, named North Hall, and used also as a women's dormitory.

Additions to the constantly increasing activities of the University included the testing of gravels and other roadbuilding materials and a course in pulp and paper making in the College of Technology, and courses in music and journalism in the College of Arts and Sciences. Highmoor Farm, in Monmouth, had been purchased in 1909 for the use of the Agricultural Experiment Station; and Aroostook Farm, in Presque Isle, was bought in 1913

for the same purpose. Other additions included a printing plant for University use and a forest tree nursery in cooperation with the Maine Forest Service.

The Extension Service grew much more rapidly at this time than any other division of the University. Farm demonstration work was started in three counties in 1912, and the acceptance by the State of the provisions of the Federal Smith-Lever Act of 1914 greatly added to the amount of money available for that purpose. Thereafter cooperative Extension work developed rapidly along three major lines — in agriculture with men, in home economics with women, and in 4-H club work with boys and girls. The first farm bureaus, now Extension associations, were organized in 1917, and by 1921 the Extension service was active in all parts of the state.

The First World War reduced the student body by nearly one half, reduced the faculty in number, but did not greatly injure the quality of instruction. However, inflation of prices and loss of receipts from tuition brought about a severe financial situation. Most serious was the permanent closing of the College of Law because of lack of funds. The first students to receive the degree of Bachelor of Laws graduated in 1899 and the last, with one exception, in 1922. The total number of law graduates was three hundred and twenty-four. Among them were many men who became prominent as members of the bar in New England.

Clarence C. Little, 1921 - 1925, was Dr. Aley's successor. Again there was an interim of some months between the two administrations. During that time the administrative duties were performed by a committee consisting of Deans Hart, Merrill, Stevens, and Boardman. The University was still in financial difficulties. Although attendance was back to normal, buildings and equipment were sadly in need of repairs or replacement and the institution was \$250,000 in debt. The utmost economy was practiced, board and tuition were increased, and appeals were made to the Legislature for additional funds. Yet not much was accomplished for some years toward reducing the debt.

However, progress was made in other directions. Administrative changes included the appointment for the first time of a Dean of Graduate Study, George D. Chase; a Dean of Women,

Caroline Colvin; and a resident treasurer, Frederick S. Youngs. Freshman Week, the first of its kind in the country, was inaugurated and the Maine Christian Association became especially active. President Little resigned in 1925. His successor was Harold S. Boardman, who had been dean of the College of Technology since 1911.

Persons who joined the faculty between 1922 and 1926 inclusive and were still members in 1956 include Verne C. Beverly, Reiner Bonde, Kenneth G. Crabtree, Charles B. Croffutt, Charles L. Eastman, Howe W. Hall, John H. Hawkins, E. Reeve Hitchner, Fay Hyland, Lyle C. Jenness, William C. Kenyon, Ronald B. Levinson, George E. Lord, Warren S. Lucas, Charles H. Merchant, Yvonne Morin, Estelle Nason, Carl E. Otto, Irving Pierce, Bernie E. Plummer, Theron A. Sparrow, Albert M. Turner, Stanley M. Wallace, J. Howard Waring, and Frederick S. Youngs.

Noteworthy in Dr. Boardman's administration was the passage of the so-called Mill Tax Act by the Maine Legislature in 1929, for which much of the credit belongs to the late Edward E. Chase, of Portland, later chairman of the Board of Trustees and then an influential member of the Legislature. This act assessed a tax of one mill on each dollar of valuation of the property in the state for the support of the University of Maine. The Act increased the revenue of the University and made it continuous. Because of this permanence, the administration could make plans for a period of years, something it had never before been able to do.

Owing to the economic depression in the early thirties, the student body did not greatly increase during Dr. Boardman's administration, which ended with his resignation in 1934. Yet the number in the graduating classes increased from 265 in 1925 to 328 in 1934. However, as already stated, the number and type of new buildings is a good index of the growth of the University, because funds for their erection have seldom been available until long after the need for them has become acute. They included Colvin Hall, a dormitory for women; new greenhouses with a head house, a dairy building named Rogers Hall, and a home economics building named Merrill Hall for the College of Agriculture; Stevens Hall for the College of Arts and Sciences; Crosby

Laboratory for the College of Technology; and the Memorial Gymnasium. This edifice with its gymnasium and indoor field was the gift of alumni, faculty, students, and friends as a memorial to students and former students of the University who gave their lives in World War I.

Other changes included the appointment of a Dean of Men, Lamert S. Corbett; the development of an experiment station in connection with the College of Technology; the inauguration of a student health program with a resident nurse; and the organization of the School of Education with Olin S. Lutes as the first dean.

Arthur A. Hauck succeeded Dr. Boardman as president in 1934 and has already served longer than any other person in that position. His administration divides naturally into three periods—before, during, and since World War II.

Before the war the University continued to make excellent progress. The student body, including that in the summer school, increased from 1,765 in 1934-35 to 2,672 in 1940-41. New buildings included an annex to Aubert Hall, one of the technology buildings; Estabrooke Hall, a dormitory for women; the agricultural engineering building; and the shell of the new library. Completion of the library was delayed until after the war.

Other developments included an art gallery in Stevens Hall, a five-year course in Liberal Arts and Nursing, and an honors course. A business manager was appointed and a students' placement bureau was established. The University Forest was obtained for research and educational purposes from the Federal government on a long-term lease. One of the earliest innovations was Maine Day, which reduced hazing and turned surplus energy of the student body into productive channels.

The Second World War burst upon the University with tremendous force. Registration of men in regular courses dropped from 1,485 in 1941-42 to a low of 189 in the spring of 1945. Thirty-nine hundred students and alumni saw military service and 174 gave their lives. Nearly two thousand of the men served as commissioned officers.

Instruction was continued in most courses for both men and women, but extensive changes were made to enable students,

whenever possible, to complete their college training before entering the armed services. The colleges remained in session throughout the year, except for brief vacations between terms.

Beginning in 1868, two years of military instruction had been compulsory, and for a long time students who wished had joined the Reserve Officers Training Corps and received commissions as second lieutenants upon graduation. During the war many special training courses were given in connection with both military and civilian service. The University also took part in the Army Specialized Training Program from June 1943 until March 1944, when most of the more than a thousand men were assigned to combat duty.

Progress was made in other directions. In administration, Arthur L. Deering, director of Extension since 1930 and dean of the College of Agriculture since 1933, became the head of all the work of the University in agricultural extension, teaching, and research, a position since known as Dean of Agriculture. At the same time an Advisory Council of prominent farmers and homemakers was approved by the Board of Trustees to advise with the Dean of Agriculture and the President of the University on matters relating to agriculture and home economics.

The close of the war brought even greater and more urgent demands than the war itself. Veterans everywhere flooded colleges and universities with applications for admission that they might complete their education. The University, as a state institution, had a special obligation to accept all who were qualified. Early in 1946 plans were made to admit 3,200 students, fifty per cent more than the largest enrollment before the war.

The estimate was too small. Beginning with 1945-46, the total enrollment for the fall semester of that and the three following years was 1,243; 4,070; 4,760; and 4,796 respectively. The whole number of veterans enrolled for the five years from the close of the war to June 30, 1950, was 5,338. This extraordinary increase in the student body demanded similar increases in faculty, funds, classrooms, dormitories, and even a new campus.

Housing for veterans, single and married, was perhaps the most difficult problem to solve. Two new housing projects were completed in 1946 with the aid of the Federal Public Housing Agency.

One was the transfer to the campus of 23 buildings that had been used elsewhere by defense workers. These buildings, called the South Apartments, were designed to house 196 families. The other brought a number of barracks from the same source. They housed 690 men and were called the North Dormitories. Students living in the barracks received their meals at first in a temporary dining room installed in one end of the field house in the Memorial Gymnasium. Later a cafeteria was erected for that purpose. During the next two years three large dormitories were built with funds provided by the Maine Legislature. They were Corbett, Dunn, and West Halls. The last was later assigned to women students and renamed Chadbourne Hall.

While these measures were in progress there were a thousand prospective students on the waiting list. Fortunately facilities at the United States Naval Station at Brunswick became available and a branch of the University was established there. The Brunswick Campus was in use from 1946 to 1949 and about eight hundred students were in attendance each year. Nearly all were both freshmen and veterans.

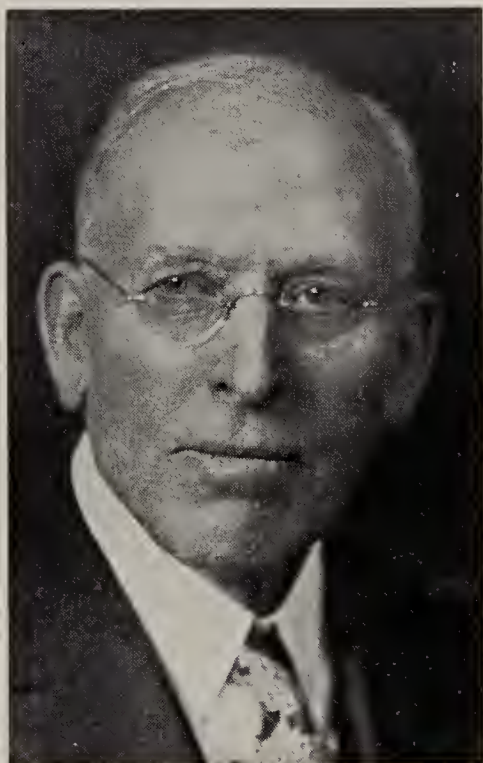
Necessary buildings erected since the war for classrooms, research, and general use include a new engineering building, Boardman Hall; the Animal Pathology and Plant Science buildings; and the Memorial Union. The last named was financed partially by gifts secured by the Maine Alumni Association from alumni, faculty, students, and friends. Another new dormitory for men, Hart Hall, has been dedicated, and one for women is now under construction.

It is a far cry from the infant Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts of 1868, with its one course of study, two instructors, and twelve students, to the University of Maine of today, with its large and distinguished faculty and its four thousand students. How far, a brief summary will show.

Administrative units in the University now include the Colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, and Technology, School of Education, Graduate Study, Summer Session, Maine Extension Service, Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, Maine Technology Experiment Station, and the Department of Industrial Cooperation. The three colleges offer numerous courses in fifty general

subjects ranging from agricultural economics to zoology. Housing facilities have grown from two farm houses to ten large dormitories besides the North Dormitories, the South Apartments, the Trailer Colony, and the University Cabins. There are sixteen fraternity houses on or near the campus. Twenty-five large buildings are used chiefly for administration, instruction, and research, besides numerous smaller ones for various purposes. More than four hundred persons are serving on the faculty, including those engaged in Extension and research.

Thus the University of Maine has become by far the largest single enterprise in the town of Orono and a potent influence in molding the lives of its people. More than that, its influence is being felt in every community in Maine; and its graduates can be found in every walk of life, in every state, and in every major foreign country.



Left: Merritt C. Fernald, Acting President 1868-71 and 1901-2 and President 1879-93 of the University of Maine. Right: James N. Hart, graduate (1885), Acting President 1910, Professor 1887-1937, and Dean of the University of Maine 1903-37, still living in Orono in 1956 at age of 95.

Congratulations to Orono on 150 years of progress.

Since 1869 this bank has been serving the people of Orono with Mutual Savings Accounts and Home Mortgage Loans.

Penobscot Savings Bank

A Friendly Bank

serving

Eastern Maine

since

1869

74 Hammond St.

Bangor, Maine



Congratulations to Orono on its 150th Birthday

from

BOYD & NOYES, Inc.

JEWELERS

23 Hammond St.

Bangor

Compliments

of

COTT QUALITY BEVERAGES

18 DELICIOUS FLAVORS

Maine Distributors, Inc.

Bangor - Houlton - Caribou

COMPLIMENTS OF

VINER'S MUSIC CO.

BANGOR

Nichols' Drug Store

ESTABLISHED — JUNE 1, 1894

Do You Remember

WHEN we were known as MERRILL & NICHOLS?

WHEN we washed 15 lamp chimneys and trimmed 15 lamp wicks every morning?

WHEN the KICKAPOO medicine man allowed you to stick needles into his hypnotized Indian right in our old display window?

WHEN we sold whiskey for 75 cents a pint?

WHEN we opened the first soda fountain in town?

WHEN NICHOLS' LA GRIPPE PILLS would "cure" a cold?

WHEN the telephone exchange was located in our store?

WHEN there was a daily game of horseshoes in the back alley?

WHEN you had your first ice cream cone at our fountain?

WHEN we filled our 100,000th new prescription on May 25, 1929?

WHEN we modernized our store during the summer of 1948?

BEST WISHES

From Your Friendly Pontiac Dealer

KELLY PONTIAC INC.

16 Summer St.

Bangor, Maine

*Happy Birthday, Orono
from*



Veazie, Maine

Compliments of

**Footman-Hillman
Dairies, Inc.**

149 State St.

Brewer

**The Bangor Floral
Co.**

(INCORPORATED 1925)

G. W. GRAVES, Manager

OFFICE AND GREENHOUSE

996 State Street

Bangor

Maine

Telephone 4569

Telephone
2-4817

OPEN
ALL YEAR

Stucco Lodge Motel

1382 State Street

M. R. B., Bangor, Maine

TV and Telephone

Route 2, 4 Miles North, Bangor
Proprietors:

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Stevens

THE HINCKS COAL CO.

Range Oil - Fuel Oil - Heating Equipment

BOTTLED GAS

Combination Windows - Gas Appliances

DIAL 6478

11 Central St.

Bangor, Me.

Compliments of

Striar Textile Mills

Orono, Maine

Greg's Grocery

33 Grove St., Near South Apts.
and the University of Maine

A FRIENDLY MARKET

With a Large Variety of Foods

WISHES ORONO

A Happy 150th Anniversary

*All Kinds, Types and Prices of
Permanent Waves*

Telephone 6-3325

Peggy's Beauty Shop

All Beauty Aids

Peggy Edgecomb, Proprietor
19 Park Street Orono, Maine

Compliments of

SILVER'S AUTO CO. INC.

P. O. Box 271

Orono, Maine

E. J. VIRGIE CLOTHING STORE

28 Mill St., Orono, Maine

Outfitters for the Men of Orono

and The University of Maine for 43 Years.

Our Sincere Thanks for your many years of Friendship.

Connors' Grocery

ALBERT DESJARDINS, Prop.

230 Main Street Orono, Maine

Orono's Barber since 1917

Casey's Barber Shop

1 Mill Street Orono

REDDY KILOWATT® SAYS



Yes! On this Sesquicentennial Orono can indeed look back with pride on the "Good Old Days" but with the assurance of an ever increasing better future for all of us.

Bangor Hydro-Electric Co.

CUTLER'S
Men's and Women's Store

OLD TOWN, MAINE

BEST WISHES TO ORONO

From The BYER MANUFACTURING CO.

74 Mill Street
Orono, Maine

*Did you know that the building we occupy was originally Orono's
first Catholic Church, built in the 1850's?*

*Did you know that the building was later used as a moving
picture theater before its present use as a factory?*

5-10 Treworgy's 5-10

Shop and Save the Self-Serve Way

The construction date of our building is unknown. We do know that it was used as a Fire House until 1874 at which time the hand pumpers and equipment were moved to the newly completed first town hall. It was later used by Bert Webster, Guss Gilbert and James I. Park as a grocery store and after that as a restaurant. We occupied the building in the spring of 1950 at which time it was remodeled as you see it today.

44 MAIN ST.

ORONO

SCRIBNER'S

Building was Orono's Second
Postoffice, 1833—
Samuel Buffum, Postmaster
50 Main St. Orono

Compliments of
**University Barber
Shop**

L. M. SIDELINKER, PROP.
21 Mill Street Orono
*Building was built in 1850
as a general store*

Richard S. Bradford

15 Main St.

Successor To
G. S. HAYES AGENCY

Serving Orono for over 35 years
from the office in the historic
Kataadn Building

REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

FIRE, CASUALTY, &
MARINE INSURANCE

SUCCESS

*To Our Orono Customers
On Your Sesquicentennial
from*

WIGHT'S SPORTING GOODS

44 Years Your Friends

BANGOR, MAINE

BOSWORTH'S SUNOCO SERVICE

*Hi-Test Gasoline at Regular
Gas Price*

*Batteries and Accessories
Complete Lube Jobs*

22 Main St. Orono, Maine

*Compliments
of*

Radio Sales and Service

Tel. 6-2767, 32 Main St., Orono

C. M. Page Co., Inc.

EXCAVATING
TRENCHING
CRUSHED STONE

WASHED SAND
AND
GRAVEL

Cement

RED E MIX

Concrete

"Delivered in High Dump Mixers"

C O N T R A C T I N G

Margin Street

ORONO, MAINE

Telephone 6-2594

Finson Road

Bangor, Maine

Telephone 7510

BANGOR HOUSE

*Enjoy a delicious meal
in our beautiful NEW
street floor dining room.*

Air Conditioned

Background Music

PHONE BANGOR 7321

Kinney Duplicator Co.

159 State St., Bangor, Maine

A. B. Dick Products

Royal Typewriters

Victor Adding Machines

Steel Office Furniture

Maine Made Paper

Phone: 8441

Swannie's Shoe Repair

Monument Square

Since August 1927

MR. ELWOOD SLOAN, PROP.

and

MRS. ELWOOD SLOAN

with

Best Anniversary Wishes

Compliments of

MOTHER'S BREAD

Kenny's Esso Station

*Located on the corner of Forest
Ave. and Main Street, about
where Penelope Colburn had
one of Orono's leading homes
150 years ago.*

TEL. 2-4601

BANGOR, ME.

DRINK

Grant's

MILK

A Complete Line of MILK Products

Greetings from

ORONO'S OLDEST STORE

Fred C. Park

SERVING ORONO SINCE 1892

Copy from Accounts in our 1892 Ledger

P208 Mr. Frank Arnold		P137 Mr. Wm. Hopkins	
To Agate Kettle	1.00	To 2 Spittoons	.20
Glenwood Parlor Stove	12.00	Jackknife	.55
		Axe	.65
P200 Mrs. Gould		Wash Boiler	1.00
To Refrigerator	16.00	P84 Alex Latno	
Brass Coil for Stove	8.50	To 1 Hammock	1.25
		1—#2 Pump	2.25
P195 Chester Page		P114 Edgar Ring	
To 6 Window Screens	3.00	To Repairing Tea Pot	.05
2 Screen Doors	1.60	Foot Bath	.60
		Set Furnace Grates	6.00
P190 Prof. Flint		P204 Congo Church	
To 2 Burner Oil Stove	3.50	To 1 Barrel Lime	1.00
Repairing Cooker	.10	1 Bu. Hair	.35
P172 College. Prof. Stevens Dept.		P215 Thomas Gilbert	
To 7 Hours Work	1.75	To Lawn Mower	6.00
111¼ ft. ½" Pipe	3.34	Sink Pipe 12#	.84
4—½" Ells	.16	Fitting Same ½ hr.	.15
P243 Jack Ellis		P227 Oak Hall, College	
To Oil Stove	.75	To Soldering Roof 3½ hr.	.90
Cr. by 2 Shaves &		2# Solder	.40
Haircut	.45		

We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to our many customers and friends for these 64 years of successful service and pledge ourselves to give our best in the future

PARK'S HARDWARE & VARIETY

31-37 MILL STREET ORONO

People say, as they did 64 years ago—"You can find it at PARK'S"

Established 1854

BACON AND ROBINSON

COAL — COKE — OIL — GAS
HEATING EQUIPMENT

24 State Street

Tel. 4576

Bangor

Compliments of

NELSON & SMALL, INC.

ORONO

Distributors of

Crosley — Bendix and Coleman Products

**ORONOKA
RESTAURANT**

Specialty of the House

Cornish Game Hen

w/wild rice stuffing

Dubuque Porter House Steak

Dubuque 1 lb. T-Bone Steak

Dubuque Roast Beef

Shish Khebab with tenderloin
tips and rice pilauff

Smorgasbord every Wednesday

Night 5:30 - 9:00

*Catering to Private Parties and
Banquets*

On Route 2, Bangor Road
across from Country Club

We serve home made pastry

MOVING?

CALL

BRIGGS, INC.

COLLECT

FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Phone 9491

BANGOR

Agent for GREYVAN LINES

To our FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS

of ORONO

BEST WISHES

from a friendly store

H^M Goldsmith

76-78 NORTH MAIN STREET, OLD TOWN, MAINE

women's, children's, infants' ready-to-wear

CONGRATULATIONS, ORONO, AND BEST WISHES

The Merrill Trust Co.

We thought you might be interested in knowing about former tenants who occupied the building in which our bank is now located. The building is generally known as the Kataadn Building, and is located on "Monument Square" in the center of Orono.

- The building was first known as "The Stillwater Hotel" or "Wyman's Tavern." It was built in the early 1830's.
- The Stillwater Canal Bank, about 1835.
- Kataadn Club.
- W.C.T.U. Library.
- Telephone Exchange.
- Pool & Billiards (Upstairs).
- Orono Bank (1850's).
- Law Office of Judge Charles J. Dunn.
- Office of Dr. Edward Tomlinson (about 1900's).
- Old Town Trust Co.
- Merrill Mortgage Co.
- The Merrill Trust Co., since Nov. 20, 1933.

AUCTION SALE

JULY 13 - 14

Orono Town Hall

Sponsored by

ORONO - OLD TOWN KIWANIS CLUB

*Proceeds Used to Support
and Promote Youth Activities*

NEW & USED MERCHANDISE, INCLUDING
ANTIQUES TO BE SOLD

Bargain Counter

Lunch Facilities

Compliments of —

Linkview Lodge Motel

On U.S. Route 2, Orono, Maine
First Motel in Orono, built on 150
year old Homestead with beautiful
view of Penobscot River and
Appalachian Mountain range.
MR. & MRS. ANDREW BUCHANAN
Tel. 6-3635 Orono

Compliments of

Buffum Beauty Shop

ORONO

CITIZENS OF ORONO

We Appreciate Your Patronage

STANDARD SHOE STORE

BANGOR, MAINE

HISTORY OF THE BENNOCK STORE

NOW THE

Maine Bear Delicatessen

John Bennock Sr. was born in Scotland on Nov. 24, 1769. When a young man he went to Liverpool, England and was advised by a friend of his that he should go to America. He sailed from Liverpool on May 27, 1793 and arrived in Boston, Mass. on July 14, 1793. In January 1799 he returned to Liverpool to visit his mother and sisters and pay his friends what he owed them. This afforded him much pleasure and satisfaction. In May 1804 he returned to Boston and two years later, August 1806, he moved to Orono, Maine or that part of the town generally called Lower Stillwater. He first lived in a very small house on the southerly end of Marsh Island. In about eleven months after he came here he lost a fine son, and about four months later lost his wife, and was left with three children. On March 26, 1809 he married Miss Holland, daughter of Park Holland Esquire. In the 1820s he started acquiring business properties in the Square, including the present location of the MAINE BEAR. Between 1832 & 1835 he built the Bennock Store. He died on January 7th, 1842 and was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

After his death the property was left to his children & heirs, John Bennock, Josiah S. Bennock, James H. Bennock, and many others. On April 28, 1873 Mary Ann Mailler, widow of James H. Bennock, became owner. On July 15, 1879 Eben Webster was appointed trustee by Lucy W. Bennock. On Feb. 7, 1905 the property was purchased by William J. Dugie and Jennie V. Derocher and George A. Perron. The store was then operated as a Chinese Laundry. On Oct. 29, 1913 Charles F. Nichols owned the property and sold it to Peter H. Kenny and Wilbert Kenny. On March 31, 1921 Henry A. Mitchell and Wendell G. Cunningham purchased and operated a meat market. On April 1, 1927 Herbert C. Bates purchased the property from Madolyn G. Cunningham and on Oct. 28, 1940 Margaret E. Madden purchased the store and on May 29, 1944 sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Allie M. Thompson and it is now operated as the MAINE BEAR DELICATESSEN.

We wish to thank all the fine folks that have patronized us in the past years and the many, many students, both present and graduated, from the University of Maine.

MR. AND MRS. ALLIE M. THOMPSON

Best Wishes from

SAILOR & SONS, INC.

ORONO RED & WHITE SUPER MARKET

SPENCER ELECTRIC SERVICE

7 MILL ST.

ORONO

ATWELL'S CANDY STORE was the first business at this location, about 1850, followed by a general store, then by grocery stores until 1948 when we opened business here.

Compliments of

**Marcris
Beauty Salon**

225 Main St.
Orono, Maine

Video Engineering
19 Mill St.

Building was constructed about 1850, and has usually housed dry goods businesses. Earliest known operators were Mr. & Mrs. William Heald.

Compliments of

Bangor Nursery Flower Shop

1000 State St.

Bangor, Maine

BLAKE, BARROWS & BROWN, INC.

Organized 1864

All Forms of Insurance

Telephone Bangor 8296

FARNSWORTH'S CAFE

11 MILL ST.

ORONO

Building constructed about 1850.

Mayo's Hall on the second floor of this building was used by a number of lodges as a meeting hall until 1941 when the second floor was built over into apartments.

In August, 1860 a rally was held in Mayo's Hall to encourage enlistments for the Civil War.

We have been in business at this location since July 1931.

COMPLIMENTS OF ROSE KING

DISTINCTIVE APPAREL SHOP

BANGOR, MAINE

SHAMROCK GRILL

22 Mill St.

"Best Wishes for the next 100 years"

EDWIN A. TATE, PROP.

Come In and See Us

ORONO, MAINE

JOSEPH R. LABEAU FUNERAL HOME

9 Pine Street
Orono, Maine

JOSEPH R. LABEAU

LOIS V. LABEAU

RALPH VIRGIE

Serving the area from the present building for 35 years.

From horse drawn hearses and hacks, driven by men dressed in beaver hats to the modern Funeral Coach and Limousine, from Undertaking Parlors to the convenient Funeral Home of today, from sombre black coffins to custom designed Caskets, these are but a few of the changes in the Funeral Profession over the past 150 years.

LABEAU TV and APPLIANCE CENTER

38 Main Street
Orono, Maine

Built in the late 1800's to house a moccasin factory, this is one of the better constructed business blocks in the town. The factory never materialized, therefore at the turn of the century Mr. Alec Durgin, who operated the Durgin Hardware, moved his business from Mill Street to this building. In 1916, Mr. William Mosher assumed the ownership of the building and business and converted the property into a furniture and hardware store which he operated until his retirement in 1937. 1938 saw the Bangor Hydro rent the store as an appliance sales and service operation which they continued until 1952. That year they gave up their appliance franchises and moved the Orono office to Old Town. Mr. LaBeau, the present owner of the appliance store, moved in in January of 1953. The second floor has been converted into modern apartments.

Luebbers Insurance Agency

27 State Street

Bangor, Maine

Tel. 2-2392

21 Grove Street

Orono, Maine

Tel. 6-8424

ALL FORMS OF INSURANCE

Fire

Home Owners

Automobile Liability

Automobile Physical Damage

Accident & Health

Marine & Inland Marine

Bonds

Comprehensive Personal
Liability

*OUR CLIENT'S CONFIDENCE IS OUR MOST VALUABLE
ASSET*



The EASTERN TRUST AND BANKING COMPANY was organized in 1887 and has served Eastern and Northern Maine with complete banking service for nearly seventy years.

The EASTERN TRUST AND BANKING COMPANY feels that through their banking service they have played an active and important part in the growth and welfare of the TOWN OF ORONO, and they wish to congratulate the people of ORONO on their SESQUICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE.

Eastern Trust & Banking Co.

BANGOR

MAINE

Offices

OLD TOWN, MAINE

MACHIAS, MAINE

Drive-In Offices

CORNER FERN AND STATE STREETS

AND

CORNER HAMMOND AND ALLEN STREETS

INSTALLMENT LOAN AGENCY

73 CENTRAL STREET, BANGOR, MAINE

1894

1956

Louis KIRSTEIN & Sons

Realtors

REAL ESTATE — INSURANCE — MANAGEMENT —
APPRAISALS

Over 62 years of continuous service in the residential, industrial and commercial development of Eastern Maine. SATISFACTION is our most important asset in REAL ESTATE. PROTECTION is our most important asset in INSURANCE.

KIRSTEIN SERVICE:

- Experienced staff of experts.
- Sound selling practices.
- Energetic, active, progressive sales methods.
- Full attention to all details of sale.
- Assistance in financing to speed-up sale.
- Country-wide contacts with persons moving into this area.

SELL with SATISFACTION — BUY with CONFIDENCE

Louis KIRSTEIN & Sons

44 Central St.

Bangor

Tel. 8291

*"May we all have a
continued long life."*

**THE HILLSON
CLEANERS**

Established 1919

18 Mill St. Dial 6-3647

ORONO

VISIT THE
PIZZA HOUSE

43 Main St.

Built in 1796 as Orono's 1st
Tavern

Used for the 1st Town Meeting
in 1806

*Serving American menu
from 11 A.M. to 9 P.M.*

RALPH GRANT,
General Manager

Compliments of

KENNETH B. CUST

THE "M" CUT RATE STORE

MRS. SYLVIA P. WALKER, PROP.

Specializing in Medicines, Gifts, Baby Needs, Cosmetics

Our store is located in one of Orono's oldest business buildings. It was built about 1820 by Mr. Cony Foster for Mr. Pat McChrystle, who was a leader in organizing the Catholic Church in Orono. In addition to housing Orono's first post office, the building has been used for a men's haberdashery and various drug stores. It was bought by the present proprietor's father, Mr. Edmund J. Pretto, in 1901.

CONGRATULATIONS

To The People Of

ORONO

ON THIS YOUR ONE HUNDRED
AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

OUR SINCERE BEST WISHES FOR
YOUR FUTURE PROSPERITY AND
PROGRESS, AS YOU CELEBRATE
THIS IMPORTANT HISTORICAL
EVENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY.



Buy Your Fuel Oil Locally

Call 6-8971

Cota Fuel Co.

BANK BLDG.

ORONO, ME.

RANGE OIL AND FUEL OIL

Established 1937 by Leo E. Cota, now owned and operated by Harold, Lee, and Norman Cota.

We install forced hot air, and hot water furnaces. Also have automatic oil delivery.

FREE SERVICE to all oil customers.

S&H Green Stamps on accounts paid in full by 10th of month—range oil, 10 days.

Inquire at office on Free Service Offer, also Furnace Estimates.

THE TEXACO STATION

KIMBALL & MARCHO, PROPS.

*On the site of the
old University Inn*

COME IN AND SEE US

24 Hour Service

S&H Green Stamps

Wrecking Service

6-3618 53 Main St. Orono

CHALET

*"Flying A" Tydol Station
With All Veedol Products*

BILL GAVETT, PROP.

Located at 19 College Ave. on
part of the old Webster Home-
stead, and has the old Chalet
building on the site.

6-2538

19 College Ave. Orono

CRAIG THE TAILOR

3 Main St.

Since 1927

*"Our building was one of the
first blacksmith shops in the
early Orono logging days."*

GEORGE CRAIG, PROP.

Cleaning, Pressing, Repairing

6-3656 Orono

UNIVERSITY MOTORS

CALSO PRODUCTS

E. L. PETERS, PROP.

Since 1924

*"32 years at the end of the
Bridge"*

Sales — Wrecking Service —
Repair

Our Building was originally
one of Orono's early lumber
mills.

6-2711 2 Main St. Orono

CONGRATULATIONS, ORONO

On Your 150th Anniversary

The BANGOR SAVINGS BANK is also old in years but new and modern in machinery and method.

Perhaps you can make use of many of the banking facilities offered by this Bank that has been serving the families of Northern and Eastern Maine for over five generations.

WE OFFER:

Savings Accounts for all purposes

Mortgage Loans

Safe Deposit Boxes

Travelers Checks

U. S. Savings Bonds

Christmas and Other Purpose Clubs

Stop in and see us — We can be of service to you.

Bangor Savings Bank

3 State Street

Bangor, Maine

Established 1852

STRAND THEATRE

MILL ST., ORONO

*Located here for the past 34
years*

We have nearly all the better pictures produced by all the major film companies, and some not shown anywhere else in this section of Maine. And with the most reasonable admission prices.

*Please patronize your local
theatre.*

Compliments of

THE MANAGER AND

CLERKS

of your local

A & P STORE

ORONO

Compliments of Ben Sklar — Old Town

Congratulations

*To Orono On Its
Sesquicentennial*

THE PENOBSCOT TIMES

Published at Old Town, Maine

*Serving The Area
As Publishers And
Printers Since 1888*

F. T. BURPEE HARDWARE CO.

EST. 1949

FREDDIE BURPEE, PROP.

“Everything for Everybody”

Located on the corner of Mill and Main Streets in the Masonic Block. Our building is constructed of bricks manufactured in Orono, and over the years has had a variety of Orono businesses.

Burpee's **ORONO BIKE & HOBBY CENTER**

BOB WORRICK, MGR.

“Visit us for everything in bikes and hobbies”

A. L. GOLDSMITH

Real Estate and Insurance

ORONO SINCE 1914

*Compliments of the Managers and Clerks
of Penobscot County*

FIRST NATIONAL STORES, INC.

<p><i>Compliments of</i> Pretto's Mobilgas Station EST. 1947 75 Main Street <i>Diner Service for the Sesquicentennial Period</i></p>	<p><i>Best Wishes From</i> Sidney J. Page GENERAL TRUCKING SERVICES 14 Middle St., Orono Phone 6-2297</p>
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Congratulations and Best Wishes

From Those Who Serve

Orono's Professional Needs

DR. ASA C. ADAMS, M.D.

DR. ROSWELL P. BATES, D.O.

DR. STANLEY J. BRIDGES, D.D.S.

DR. W. C. HALL, M.D.

ATTORNEY LEWELLYN R. MICHAUD

ATTORNEY JOHN H. NEEDHAM

DR. ELMER M. SEWALL, M.D.

a symbol of service



SALES
APPRAISALS
LEASES

FINANCING
MANAGEMENT
INSURANCE

TELEPHONE 7309

19 STATE STREET

BANGOR, MAINE



THIS IS YOUR TOWN

a pictorial history of the
Town of Orono
written and staged
by

HERSCHEL L. BRICKER

Consultant on the History of Orono*
Barbara Dunn Hitchner

**Author of the Prologue and
lyrics for the Orono Song**

Cecelia Kohl Bricker

Costume Supervisors

Iva Waring

Claire S. Sanders

Photography and Slides

Wayne Johnson

Projection and Sound

Roger Frey

Assistants

Leonard Berry

Harry Treworgy

Dana Dolloff

John Quinsey

David Reed

Irven Lane

Artists

Vina Adams, Chairman

Philip Brockway

Fred Rounds

Dorothy Nichols

Polly Campbell

Dorothy Queen

Christine Abbott

Frances Clapp

Casting Assistants

Erdine Dolloff, Chairman

Rae Hurd Smith

J. Duff Gillespie

Grover B. MacLaughlin

Mary Louise Griffie

Assistant to the Director

Skip Avery

Lighting

Fred Otto

Henry L. Mosher

P. A. System

Charles Ross

Props

Kathryn R. Richard

Charlotte Treworgy

CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATION

First Narrator John Ballou

Second Narrator George J. Gonyar

Third Narrator Maude E. MacKenzie

PROLOGUE

THIS IS YOUR TOWN

Woman's Voice Mina Coffin

Man's Voice Herschel Bricker

SCENE I

CHIEF ORONO AND THE PENOBSCOT INDIANS

Indian Dancers Fred Otto, Director of Dance;
George Martin, James Willard, Stephen Merrill, Clayton
Shatney, James Shibodean, Howard Bates, Charles Cogswell,
David Smith, George Gorrill, Robert Woodbury, Bruce Stuart,
Stephen Hartgen, David Hartgen, Richard Palmieri, David
Dyer, William Lansing.

Provincial Governor's Message Stanley Hallet

Penobscot Indians Governor Albert Nicolar and
 Chief Bruce Poolaw; Frederick Nicolar, Arthur Neptune,
 Henry Sockbeson, David Lewis, Russell Joseph.

Principal Indian Spokesman Clarence Francis

Second Indian Roger Ranco

Third Indian Ernest Gosselin

An Indian Chief Chief Bruce Poolaw

Chief Orono George J. Gonyar

Deputy Governor of Massachusetts Nelson B. Jones

Governor's Two Aides ... Richard R-W. Holmes, Allan A. Whitmore

The Governor's Clerk Nelson Davis

Andrew Gilman, Interpreter Seth P. Jackson

A Priest Richard C. Hill

SCENE II

EARLY SETTLERS AND INTERESTING FACTS

A Mother Barbara Manchester

Justice of the Peace J. Duff Gillespie

Bride Susan McNeary

Groom Ted Curtis

First British Soldier Larry Libby

Joseph Page Gerald Beckwith

Second British Soldier Bruce Worcester

Andrew G. Ring Robert Emerson

Nathaniel Wilson Cy W. Greenhalgh

Israel Washburn, Jr. Milton M. McGorrill

SCENE III

LUMBERING AND MILLS

Ballad Singer Edward D. Ives

Woodsmen Stephen Murray, Franklin Cocks,
 Charles Edward LeClair, David Hachey, Charles Graham,
 Mike Goodine.

Waiters Allen Martin, Robert Brooks,
 Lawrence Edward Grindle.

Crowd at Auction Jerry Biscoe, Adolph J. Duplissa, Jr.,
 Bill Bosworth, Leonard Comeau, Stephen Clement, Harold
 LeClair, David Murch, David Martin.

First Man Thomas Casey

Second Man Richard J. Willard

Rufus Dwinel Gerald Beckwith

Mr. Pillsbury Ralph Perkins

Henry Head, Auctioneer J. Duff Gillespie

SCENE IV

SCHOOLS AND THE UNIVERSITY

Third Graders from

The Birch Street School Thursday Night

Laura H. Bryer, Teacher; Barbara Bridges, Evelyn Myers,
 Nancy Stuart, Joyce Connors, Raymond LeClair, Donna Modery,
 Gary Bricker, Kathryn Elsemore, J. Russell Duym, Jimmy
 Grindle, Regina Morrison, Diane Dyer, Stephen Worrick,
 Everett Burns, Karen Anderson, Bruce Glanville.

The Bennoch Street School Friday Night

Patricia Crowley, Teacher; Laurence Wasson, Irene Richards, Carl Merrill, Sally Smith, Lester Martin, Robert Shay, Carol Keene, Carl Nevells, Sylvia Thurlow, Dewaine Craig, Bruce Farnsworth, Judy Leighton, Beverly Perkins, Sondra Everhart, Jennette Britton, Charles Dickey, Mary Bagley, Judy Read, Robert Scott, David Roy, Jean McPeck, Joylene Willard, Sharon Boulter, Stephen McPherson, Nancy Keene.

The Webster School Saturday Night

Marjorie Brennen, Teacher; Gail Cameron, Susan Getchell, Pamela Heffington, Brian McLintock, Barry Melching, John Moore, Lynne Murray, Gregory O'Keefe, Sarah Pettigrew, Franklyn Randall, Phylis Robichaud, William Sleeper, Carol Ann Small, Carol Ann Stover, Vida Trafford, Susan Weeks, Jeffrey Wiggs, Betty Lou Williams.

High School Teacher Mary Louise Giddings

John David Reed

Gertrude Jane Bates

George Robert Miller

Suzie Virginia Cushman

Henry John Quinsey

Samuel Norman Dubay

A U. of M. Dean Howard Waring

A U. of M. Professor Clarence E. Bennett

SCENE V

OFF TO THE WARS

Color Guard Jim Dolloff, Dana Dolloff, Richard S. Kimball

Revolutionary Soldiers Robert Henderson, Ronald Humphrey

1812 Soldiers Raymond Albert Grindle, Dana Deering

Civil War Soldiers Irven Lane, Philip Gilpatrick

Spanish American War Soldiers Gardner S. Hunt, Ross Wyman

World War I Soldiers George Hamilton, Don Piper

A United States Air Force Flyer John Veno

A United States Marine John F. Pettigrew

A United States Sailor Ronnie Parent

A WAC Phylis Stewart

A WAVE Ruth Kimball

A United States Army Nurse Marjorie Gould

William Ladd Edward Ross

SCENE VI

COMMUNITY LIFE

Square Dancers Parker Cushman, Bertha Cushman,

Herbert A. Leonard, Eleanor Leonard, Edwin H. Bates, Ada

Bates, Harold L. Chute, Marion Chute.

Junior Choruses of the Catholic, Methodist, and Universal Fellowship Churches: Jennie Mae Stevens, Director: Janice Schriver, Pianist; Sharon Abbott, Nancy Bates, Ronald Bennett, Mary Biscoe, Morris Bonde, Dorothea Boothby, Joyce Britton, Irene Brown, Mary Brown, Christopher Campbell, Catherine Casey, Melissa Cleaves, John Cluff, Mary Lou Damien, Willard Deering, Diane Dennis, Janet Dickey, Pamela Doyon, Doris Ann Eaton, Sheila Everhart, Barbara Fenderson, Jennifer Flynn, Betty Focht, Marie Focht, Geraldine Gagne, Bethe Gardner, Horace Gardner, Kathy Gardner, Stephen Gardner, George Gorriall, Jo Ann Greenhalgh, Linda Greenhalgh, Donald Griffes, Davis Gross, Larry Gross, Margaret Hayman, Clifford Hill, Mary Holmes, Rosemary Howard, William Jeffrey, Patricia Kenney, Rachael Kyle, Stanley Lane, Charlene Leonard, Marjorie Libbey, Cheryl Livingston, Dale Livingston, Jean Lucas, Nancy Lucas, Claire McCorrison, Jane McCorrison, Jean McKay, Richard McNeary, Matthew McNeary, Lee Melching, Barbara Merrill, Mary Miller, Eleanor Murray, Mary Jean Ness, Norman Ness, Terry Nickerson, Brian Page, Jean Page, Joan Page, Rosemary Pelletier, Brenda Perry, Robert Perry, Coralie Romanyshyn, Carole Robichaud, Linda Sabien, Bonnie Sewall, Starlene Sewall, Sharon Sherman, Geddes Simpson, Daryl Sleight, Richard Small, Gail Starr, Judson Starr, Kenneth Stewart, Janice Ann Stover, Dawn Carol Strout, Rosemary Sullivan, Ruth Thibodeau, Mary Tracey, Victoria Violette, Carol White, James Willard, Jeanne Worrick ... God of Our Fathers

STYLE SHOW

A Woman of 1775	Rae Hurd Smith
A Woman of 1812	Kathryn R. Richards
A Woman of the Civil War	Charlotte Treworgy
A Gibson Girl	Helen B. King
A Bride of the 1920's	Ruth N. Bennett
The Woman of Today	Judy Starr
The Orono Song by members of Clubs and Fraternal Organizations with Lewis Niven, Director; Olive Dean, Alice Modery, Rose Sullivan, Mary Louise Giddings, Roger Goodine, Edward Merrill, Vann Phillips, Elizabeth Smith, Lelia Connors, Bernadette Pellegrino, Thomas Pedloe, Ruth Kimball, Richard Holmes, Bill Bosworth, Gardner Hunt, Virginia Cushman, George Hamilton, J. Duff Gillespie, Richard Kimball, J. H. Waring, Jerry Biscoe, Seth Jackson, Susan McNeary, Nelson Jones, Judy Starr, Phil Gil- patrick, Ruth Smith.	

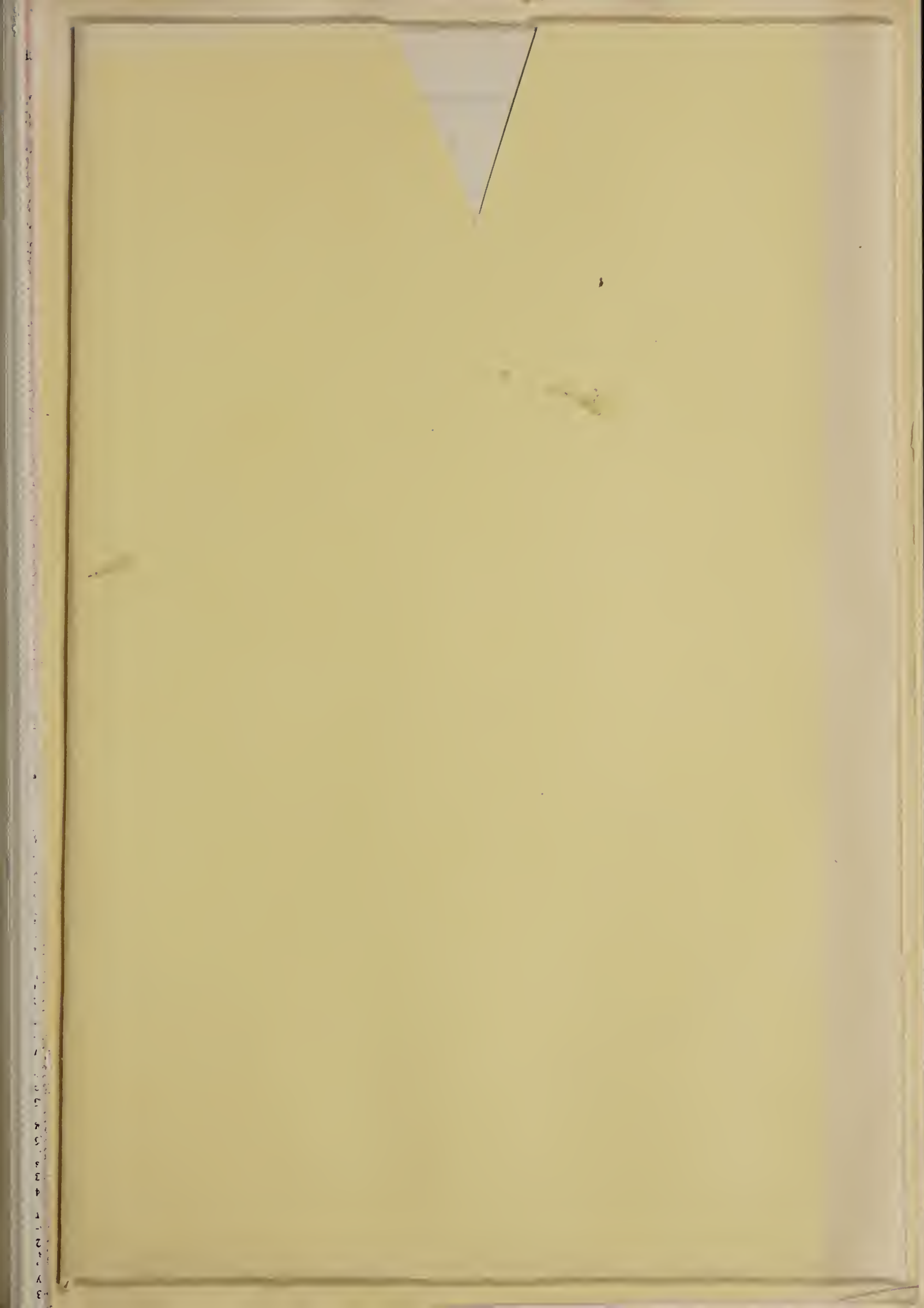
EPILOGUE

HAIL TOMORROW

Woman's Voice Mina Coffin

Had it not been for Barbara Dunn Hitchner this story, as it is presented, would have been impossible. Mrs. Hitchner opened her files, covering between fifteen and twenty years of research, to me; I am grateful to her.

*Should you disagree with any aspect of this presentation, I assure you that I have made every effort to present correct facts. Hand-
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TOWN OF
ORONO
 PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

1. HIGH SCHOOL
2. NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3. CATHOLIC CHURCH + SCHOOL
4. FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
5. TOWN HALL
6. POST OFFICE
7. COM. HOUSE + LIBRARY
8. FIRE + POLICE STA.
9. BENNOCH ST. SCHOOL
10. BIRCH ST. SCHOOL
11. METHODIST CHURCH
12. WEBSTER SCHOOL

PREPARED BY
 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 FOR
 ORONO SESQUICENTENNIAL COMM.
 1956

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